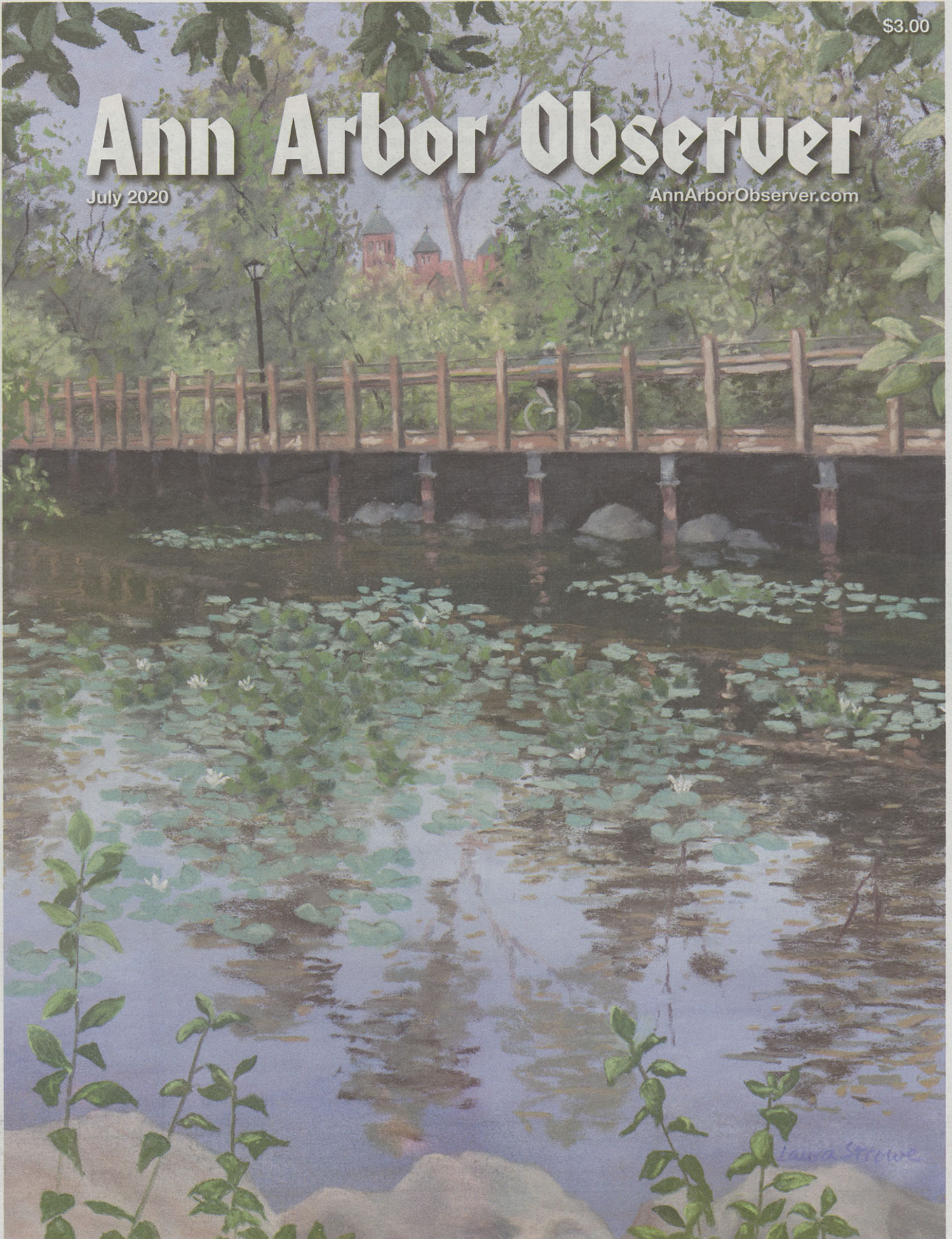


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Cover: The millrace at the Broadway Bridge. Pastel painting by Laura Strowe.



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Rental and streaming Films and virtual
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on p. 47; our Kids Calendar is on p. 49.
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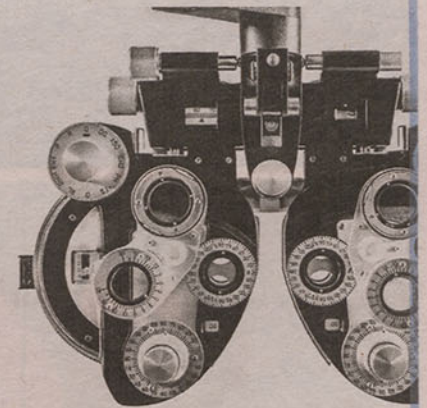
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Reading and racism: “We

can’t keep books on racism and antiracism in stock—they’re flying off the shelves,” says Linda Goodman, who handles children’s books at Nicola’s. As protests spread around the world in the wake of the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer, parents snapped up titles such as Innosanto Nagara’s alphabet book *A is for Activist* and the Caldecott Medal-winning picture book *The Undefeated*, by Kwame Alexander. A book for middle-years readers, *Enough! 20 Protesters Who Changed America*, by Emily Easton and Ziyue Chen, sold out almost immediately.

Grown-ups are reading, too. “We’ve had amazing numbers of requests for suggestions about antiracism books and a gratifying number of orders,” says Jack Gillard, who handles adult titles at Nicola’s. “We’re waiting for the publishers to reprint quite a few titles. There’s definitely a major buzz.”

When Barnes & Noble reopened in June, “we were hit with a deluge of requests for antiracism books right out of the gate,” says manager Gabrielle, who requested her last name not be used. “Almost immediately, we sold out our inventory of a number of titles,” among them *So You Want to Talk About Race* (Ijeoma Oluo), *How to Be an Antiracist* (Ibram X. Kendi), and *White Fragility* (Robin DiAngelo).

“Antiracism books are definitely what people are looking to buy right now,” agrees Literati co-owner Hilary Gustafson. “But people are also ordering fiction by black authors,” such as Brit Bennett’s new novel *The Vanishing Half*, *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and *The Underground Railroad* and *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead.

High-rise delay: “It’s like launching a rocket in the worst weather possible,” says Howard Frehsee of his struggles to get Ann Arbor’s biggest construction project in decades off the ground.



Frehsee planned to break ground this spring for his nineteen-story high-rise on E. Washington and its companion six-story mid-rise off State St., with tenants moving in by the summer of 2022. But the pandemic “slammed the brakes on it,” says Frehsee. “Now it’s going to be the summer of ’23, and we have to be careful we can still meet that timetable.”

Though he doesn’t have a new groundbreaking date, he’s still “hoping to start construction this year,” he says. “Hopefully, it won’t get delayed until the spring” of 2021.

Michigan’s construction ban was lifted in May, but the pandemic caused bigger problems. Even though Frehsee says the buildings will be marketed to a wide demographic, questions about what U-M’s reopening will look like are more worrisome in the long term.



“It creates a great uncertainty in the marketplace, and the lenders that loan money for projects like this are very concerned what that means going forward,” he says. “We believe that people will come back [to Ann Arbor] once they know the coast is clear.”

“We have every intention of moving forward on our project. Still, it’s about the worst time you could pick to do something like this.”

Therapist update: Our June feature on “reinvented” therapist Jo Benson drew thousands of online readers from both Michigan and Oregon, where Benson previously practiced as Emily Clark. It also may have finally jolted regulators into action.

Though a former boss said he’d emailed Michigan authorities four times to alert them, in June, the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs’ website still showed no formal complaints against Benson. But the Observer’s emails to members of the social work licensing board finally got a re-



sponse from LARA. Interim communications director David Harns emails that the regulator “currently has open files on Ms. Benson.”

Citing the investigation, Harns declined to comment on why there was no indication of it on LARA’s website—or on how Benson was able to get a license here just months after surrendering her license in Oregon.

Kid-friendly protest: “Some of

us wanted to get involved in some of the marches,” says Georgetown resident Mira Sussman. “But with Covid and having little kids”—her youngest is six—she decided to organize something less intense.

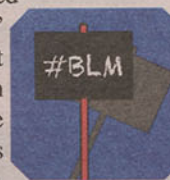
She saw her Kids March for Equity as a way for parents to “talk about race with their kids” and expected maybe thirty people to show up—fifty, tops. So she was shocked to find at least 150 gathered at the intersection of Tacoma Cir. and King George Blvd. on the first Sunday in June. There were seniors (including Sussman’s activist mom, Lonnie), parents pushing buggies, elementary-school kids, and teenagers.

“I told everybody ... bring your own signs, snacks, and water,” Sussman says. Luckily, Jen Rosenberg also brought a megaphone.

Sussman told the crowd, “the burden of ending racism does not rest solely on black people. It’s up to those of us who benefit from these [racist] structures to recognize our roles in maintaining these systems.”

The marchers “wound up walking down King George to Eisenhower,” says Sussman. Drivers honked in support as the protesters waved their handmade signs.

Sussman’s sign quoted the Torah: “Justice, Justice, You shall pursue.” Leslie Wilkins, who is white, made one that read “Black Lives Matter.” Wilkins’ thirteen-year-old daughter, Maxine, who is black, wrote on hers, “I shouldn’t be scared to be jogging.”



Reading it, Wilkins got teary-eyed. The next week she and Maxine joined another family march, this one in the Scarlett Mitchell neighborhood. She says 240 people showed up for that one—“and half of them were kids.”

Woodchuck love: While the kids returning to the Discovery Center preschool in June were happy to see their friends and teachers, they were over the moon to meet Pork Chop.

“Parents were telling us they needed to get back to work,” says school director Debbie Belcher. For safety, they limited capacity to ten kids per classroom. Parents don’t have school access and must submit health questionnaires from their car. Kids and staff receive front-door temperature checks, and family-style lunches have been replaced with individual servings.

Founded in 1974, the center moved into its custom-designed brick building on S. Maple Rd. ten years later. Last year, owner George Miller brought back its architect, Bill Meier, and builder, Joe Hammond, to update the playgrounds and to create a new nature area and path in the neighboring woods.

Last year the kids spotted a woodchuck enjoying their outdoor space and dubbed her “Slurpee” because of the unwelcome plastic top of a Slurpee cup wrapped around her head and neck. The Humane Society of Huron Valley transported Slurpee to its vet clinic, where they surgically removed the top. Returning from her successful surgery, Slurpee found love with another woodchuck, “Bubba.” Last spring, the kids watched as Slurpee, Bubba, and their three offspring feasted on the school’s leftover apples, bananas, and sandwiches.

The young woodchuck moved on last fall, but the couple remained. During the shutdown, staff members continued to put out food—and were thrilled to see a new baby join Slurpee and Bubba this spring.

Pork Chop’s name is an homage to his plump form—he filled out quickly thanks to unlimited trips with his parents to the school’s woodchuck buffet. ■




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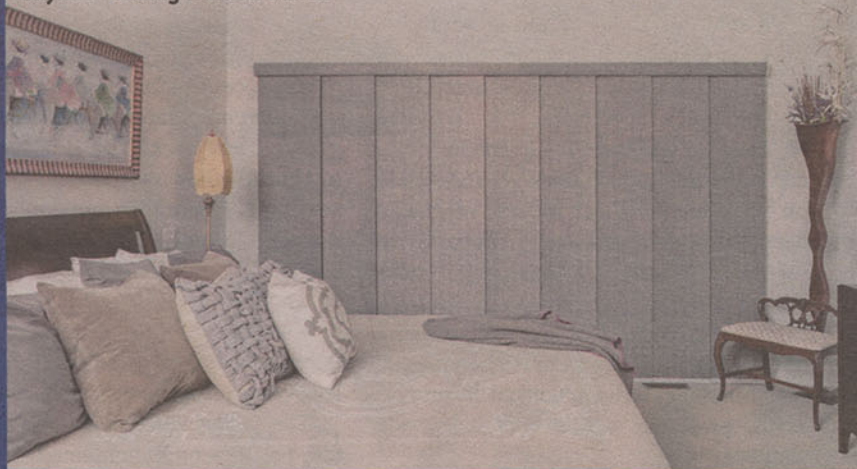
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Inside Ann Arbor

A2Zero

City council approved an ambitious \$1 billion plan to achieve "carbon neutrality" by 2030.

The A2Zero plan passed unanimously—but only after nixing language that amounted to calling for effectively ending single-family zoning. The plan had envisioned allowing "by right" construction of four-plexes and accessory dwelling units (ADUs) anywhere in the city. An amendment by Ward Two rep Kathy Griswold's amendment replaced that with a vague goal to "increase housing opportunities."

Griswold says the amendment was based on notes from Missy Stults, the city's sustainability and innovations manager. "It was really a communications problem," Griswold says. "Some of us felt there was inflammatory language. I was just trying to get to yes, because everyone on council supported the goals."

Increasing housing density is a key part of the plan, according to Stults, because land use is a major factor in greenhouse gas emissions and the issue came up repeatedly in public engagement sessions. But Stults says Griswold's change caused "no heartburn." The plan still envisions reducing commuting by building more multifamily units.

A2Zero has specific emissions reductions targets and estimated price tags spelled out in detail, but it's more of a road map with some uncharted territory than an agenda set in stone. Many parts of A2Zero count on actions the city doesn't control.

Most notably, more than a third of projected emissions savings are tied to "community choice aggregation"—which requires state legislation deregulating utilities. That's unlikely in the near term and strongly opposed by DTE—a key partner in A2Zero, particularly in the planned solar array at the former city landfill.

Stults says she could embrace "other solutions" that may emerge in a different energy marketplace—but only if they force utility customers to "opt out" of renewable utilities. Because DTE's current alternative-energy plan, "My Green Power," requires customers to opt in, she says it won't produce enough switch-overs to meet the 2030 goal.

Also flexible, as it must be, is A2Zero's vision for powering all city buildings, all new construction, and 30 percent of existing homes through renewable energy sources by 2030. That would require a massive switch from natural gas to electricity, which is currently much more expensive in Michigan. The city hopes to do what it can, including launching public-private bulk-buying programs for energy-efficient items, to make it more affordable for homeowners to get renewable energy replacements when an old water heater or other appli-



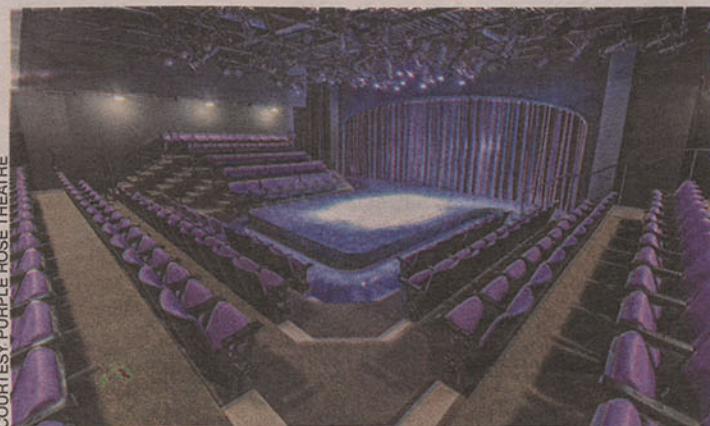
J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

ance needs to be replaced. Such steps would nudge the market to be ready for a change to renewables and help make it easier for consumers to do the right thing by making energy-efficient replacements more appealing. It's akin to how you get kids to floss their teeth—at least, that's the analogy that comes to mind for Stults, the mother of a five-year-old.

The plan also calls for purchasing more than \$9 million in "carbon offsets." But "we're not interested," Stults says, in the cheap offsets that are now available in the still-developing carbon trading market. The plan spells out that the city would invest only in new, more expensive projects that actually replace fossil fuels.

A2Zero was the result of a council mandate when it declared a climate emergency last November. Stults says her staff originally wanted a more realistic "carbon neutral" target date of 2035, but the city council insisted on 2030. Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County are among ninety-four local government units in the United States and one of 1,500 places in thirty countries worldwide—collectively overseeing 820 million people—to declare a climate emergency.

One thing the city won't commit to is taking on animal agriculture and dietary choices. Though consumption of meat and dairy is a major contributor to global warming, the ninety-two-page A2Zero plan devotes only one page to efforts to "support a plant-rich diet."



COURTESY PURPLE ROSE THEATRE

Already intimate, Chelsea's Purple Rose Theatre normally seats 168. Under social distancing guidelines, managers calculated that they could sell just twenty-eight tickets—so the theater won't reopen soon.

A note from city sustainability and innovations manager Missy Stults to Ward Two councilmember Kathy Griswold broke the council impasse over the plan. A goal to permit four-unit buildings everywhere in the city was replaced by a vague call to "increase housing opportunities."

Arts Crisis

Theater audiences applauded. Music lovers enjoyed live jazz, concert music, or pop.

It seems like forever ago. When there is a vaccine for Covid-19, Ann Arbor will become the center of arts and entertainment it always has been. But that will take time. Some organizations will be changed. Some won't survive.

The Kickshaw Theatre canceled its last scheduled production this spring and closed permanently. Crazy Wisdom Bookstore will reopen, but the second-floor tearoom, which hosted acoustic music and poetry readings, has been repurposed as a community room for event bookings and yoga.

Other venues hope to reopen but don't know when.

"Theater is a contact sport. You have to be in the same room and breathe the same air and touch," says Purple Rose Theatre managing director Katie Hubbard. Its intimate building in Chelsea normally seats 168. With social distancing guidelines, they could sell just twenty-eight tickets, so they won't reopen soon.

After considering summer shows in West Park, the Penny Seats Theatre Company realized distancing would still be tricky and indoor rehearsals would put

actors at risk. The 2020 season is off; reopening awaits a vaccine. The Ann Arbor Civic Band's summer concerts at the West Park band shell are canceled, too.

The Ark closed ahead of the shutdown and can only open when it's safe for artists to tour. University Musical Society has announced its coming sea-

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Inside Ann Arbor

son but will adapt audience capacity and to travel issues, too.

"Loud and close together and energized. That's what the Necto is," says Scott Greig. But a crowded dance floor is not the place to be with Covid on the loose.

After canceling this summer's event, the Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair has reserved May 16, 2021.

Laughter may be the best medicine, but since it doesn't cure this virus, the Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, along with many other entertainment entities, canceled scheduled performances, too.

Some arts organizations stream live presentations, often from artists' homes; others show works that were captured when originally presented (see Events, p. 41). Some show films, host discussions, or offer other online events.

Some plan to integrate virtual experiences into future seasons. "I think as we use technology, we can also increase accessibility. It's a scary time, but I think there are untapped opportunities," reflects Joe Schoch, director of Ann Arbor Pride.

UMS has been offering online events. But Sara Billman, vice president for marketing and communications, says that's made audiences and artists "realize how much we value being together with others for shared experiences, and that the energy transfer is two-way ... It's hard to feel that energy from your living room."

The financial toll varies. Forty percent of those who held tickets to canceled UMS events donated them back. Supported by donors, Green Wood Coffee House is saving money, since ticket sales never covered costs of bringing in artists. Penny Seats budgets in advance through donations, and its lease is based on occupancy. The Ann Arbor Festival of Song, a shoe-string operation, had no money to lose. The Ann Arbor Film Festival, presented for free this year, lost only 8 percent in revenue because sponsors came through and most advance sales were converted into donations.

Loans and grants and celebrity fundraisers keep the Purple Rose afloat. Founder Jeff Daniels has done four fundraising concerts online. The theater's endowment is a safety net now.

The Ark reduced its staff, and memberships and donations are helping cover fixed expenses.

The Antiquarian Book Fair has refunded booth fees but still had expenses. A GoFundMe campaign helped pay Zal Gaz Grotto's summer property tax bill, and the club hopes to use its liquor license outside.

Monthly revenue for the Michigan and State theaters is down more than 70 percent, a situation that's not sustainable long-term.

The Necto is working to reduce costs. A skeleton staff is keeping the coolers clean and the sound equipment in good shape.

"The Necto has been there since 1974," says Greig. "It's an institution in town, and we'll fight and claw and scratch to keep the torch lit."

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Virtual Funerals

At the height of the pandemic, Nie Funeral Home held a funeral attended by 4,500 people—online.

“The pandemic ushered us into a whole new world of technology,” says Dutch Nie, CEO of the three-generation family business. They’d already offered webcasts, but “people didn’t seem to have much interest in them,” Nie says. When the novel coronavirus hit, “that changed overnight.”

Instead of meeting families in person, now they’re making plans online or on conference calls. “In the past, only the family members in the area made the arrangements; now we have the opportunity to involve all the family members, no matter where they live.”

That was the case when a couple, both natives of the Philippines, died of Covid-19, and their daughter in the U.S. tested positive for the disease. A brother and son coordinated the arrangements for the local visitation and service, and Nie set up a webcast and a Zoom meeting with relatives in the Philippines, videotaping the interactions and posting them to the family’s online pages.

“It’s difficult for a profession to see families suffer alone,” says Dutch Nie’s son Jake, grandson of founder Doug Nie. “We’ve had to change many practices overnight, thanks to the pandemic.”

Funeral homes are required to keep their doors locked. Masked and gloved staff members open them only by appointment for masked visitors. The staff will even sign guest books for them, if they wish. Otherwise, Nie’s staff remains behind glass while the visitors pay their respects. Once a visitor leaves, the areas involved are sanitized once again.

Many families are postponing services until social distancing restrictions are lifted. “People in our profession used to say, ‘Wedding planners get six months to plan a ceremony; we get three days,’” Nie says. “Now we’re like the wedding business, scheduling services months in the future, with flexible dates. We have

plans for ceremonies in July and August, but they’re fluid right now, depending on what happens between now and then.”

“Burials are more challenging than you might think,” Jake Nie adds. “Every cemetery has its own rules and regulations.”

Before guidelines were relaxed in June, no more than ten people could attend a burial, says Walter Sperry, who oversees burials at Arborcrest Memorial Park and has buried five victims of Covid-19. If there were more than ten mourners, they’d either “rotate in and out of cars or witness the graveside ceremony from farther away.”

Brad Bouchie is sexton for five cemeteries, among them Bethlehem and Fairview. “I’ve been in the business fifteen years, and I never had to wear gloves and masks before this. Now we wear gloves and masks, and we don’t touch the casket.”

“I expected we’d be very busy here now, but Washtenaw hasn’t been hit like Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne counties. We’ve been fortunate. Before the virus, we averaged four or five funerals a month, and we haven’t had many more than that.” Some families decided to cremate their family members and wait until the gathering regulations change. And with elective surgeries postponed and everyone staying home during the shutdown, fewer people were “dying on operating tables or in car accidents.”

Before the pandemic, Bouchie had a schedule of spring interments for “snowbirds” who died out of state. So far, he says, every one of those ceremonies has been canceled, with no new dates on the calendar yet.

Covid Costs

The county is spending millions on everything from testing to hotel rooms for the homeless.

“We’ve spent well over six million at this point trying to address the Covid-19 crisis,” says county board of commissioners



J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

“People in our profession used to say, ‘Wedding planners get six months to plan a ceremony; we get three days,’” Dutch Nie says. “Now we’re like the wedding business, scheduling services months in the future, with flexible dates.”



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Inside Ann Arbor

chair Jason Morgan. "We're spending money on PPE, on testing and staffing for the testing through the public health department, on overtime for many of our staffers who are working in those areas."

Much of that money comes from last year's surplus—money that normally would go to infrastructure or one-time expenses. This year it's all going to Covid-19 relief.

It's only the start. In May the board passed two additional spending resolutions: one to assist the homeless and those in danger of losing their homes because of the economic collapse, the other for hazard pay for law enforcement officers.

The housing money is "a stopgap" for renters and homeowners, says Ann Arbor commissioner Andy LaBarre. "It basically floats you through a quarter" of a year.

The biggest expense is for rehousing residents of local homeless shelters to curb an outbreak of Covid-19. After a couple of cases were detected, many guests were moved out to hotel rooms—though Morgan won't say which hotel.

"They asked us not to share the name [due to] long-term concerns about their brand," says Morgan. "They've been a great partner." Beyond housing, folks get food and can get mental health and public health services plus access to testing.

The county has already spent \$5.8 million on hotel rooms, and the bill could reach \$9 million by year's end.

"We're going to try and get as much as we can reimbursed from FEMA," Morgan says, "but only 75 percent of that's reimbursable."

The board also voted for hazard pay for sheriff's deputies: a 2 percent increase from March through June. As LaBarre explains it, officers "are being asked

to provide public safety and response services in a way where sometimes they can't go back to their homes because they don't want to infect their families."

"We have labor contracts with all of our county employees," Morgan continues. Most call for "additional pay for all employees who are working during [a]

crisis." Though the clauses are "generally meant for more of like a snow day" than a pandemic, they've provided extra compensation for most affected county employees. "The police officer's union did not have that provision in their contract," Morgan says, but the board figured they still deserved the temporary raise.

After national and local incidents of police violence—in May a deputy was filmed in Ypsilanti Township repeatedly punching a woman in the head after she bit him—and calls to defund police, is this the right message to send?

"I don't think this is related to that," Morgan replies. While he's heard from a lot from folks about the incident, he says there were no calls to defund the sheriff's office—only "very legitimate questions [about] our use-of-force policies."

Dino Garden

From a distance, the front yard on Ferdon seems like an impressive display of colorful flowers.

Get closer, and you'll see that among the flowers lurk dozens and dozens of plastic dinosaurs, some quite large, some only an inch or two tall. Many small ones march along a low block retaining wall. Others are tucked under foliage plants or bask in sunny spots. Showpieces are a tyrannosaurus rex, two



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As a former Museum Friends Board member with a deep appreciation for the arts, Carolyn Lepard is another Ann Arbor institution. She takes pride in the opportunity to experience outstanding art right here in her own backyard. To

her, it's simply another indication that there is no town quite like Ann Arbor, with its mix of cultural elegance and down-to-earth residents.

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Tyke and Jeanne Wright with a Covid-conscious Tyrannosaurus rex. Begun modestly as landscape accents to Jeanne's vibrant front-yard flower garden, the dinosaur collection grew into a beloved neighborhood landmark.

or three feet tall, an even larger brontosaurus, and a velociraptor rearing up and baring its jagged sharp teeth, eight feet long from its big head to its very long tail.

The dinosaur collection started modestly as landscape accents in Jeanne Wright's vibrant flower garden. Empty nesters, she and her husband, Tyke, used some of their children's toys they'd stored in the basement. Neighbors added their own discarded dinos.

The quirky garden has become a local attraction in the neighborhood south of Stadium Blvd. In good weather some fifty or sixty people a day stop by: neighborhood kids with and without parents or grandparents, some visitors on bikes, others pushing strollers. One boy comes every day. Children and even adults like to rearrange them by size, by color, by type—carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores. Sometimes little kids practice counting them.

"The more people played with the dinos, the more we stopped at yard sales to get more of them," says Tyke. "It be-

came a circle." Photos, illustrations, and children's drawings of dinosaurs started showing up in the mailbox or by the front door.

One year, in conjunction with the March for Science, some dinos carried political signs: "Science is real; Denial is deadly," "Science is not an alternative fact," and "There is no planet B." This year, two big dinos are wearing face masks.

Few if any dinos have been pilfered. At the end of each season, when the Wrights put them away, there are more than there were in spring. Last fall the count was 156.

calls & letters

WSG Gallery's rent

"We haven't paid \$5,000 a month since 2009!" objected Elizabeth Schwartz. A member of artist collective WSG, Schwartz emailed in response to our June Marketplace Changes article on the closing of their Main St. gallery.

We thoroughly misunderstood the history and status of the gallery's lease with landlord Ed Shaffran. WSG's prior lease, from March 2015 through February 2020, started at \$7,000 a month and rose to \$7,995. Last fall, the parties agreed to a new three-year lease at \$7,500. Schwartz, who handled negotiations, says Shaffran made the concession after being informed that they had a better offer from another Main St. landlord.

But just as the new lease started, Covid-19 turned everyone's business plans upside down. With the gallery closed, the collective asked Shaffran to negotiate, didn't pay rent in April or May, and vacated toward the end of that month. While looking for a less expensive space elsewhere, they are operating online at wsg-art.com.

Oasis Grill corrections

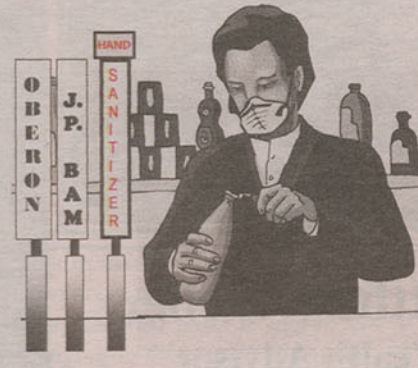
"In your last edition, my restaurant was featured in a small [Marketplace Changes] article that is very much appreciated," emailed Oasis Mediterranean Grill owner Nizar El-Awar. But we'd omitted the hyphen from his name, and confused Oasis's history of community involvement. "The article stated that we participated in the Art Fair for 25 years. That's incorrect. We were actually part of the Art Fair for 35 years, and we participated as the longest running food vendor at the Summer Festival for 25 years."

El-Awar also wished we had highlighted their "delivery services to the whole Ann Arbor community beyond the campus.

"Like many others, we are hurting, we are working hard to spread awareness of our restaurant, and we need your help!"

Life in Ann Arbor

Tim Athan



question corner

Q. I understand there's a city law that makes it illegal to park in front of one's own driveway. Can you unearth the rationale for this? If one can park in one's driveway, why not in front of it?

A. The street has "public access" status. This means that it is in city control. Preventing driveway parking ensures emergency vehicle access. Ann Arbor's parking restriction is very similar to that specification in the Michigan Vehicle Code. Generally this rule is enforced only when a citizen complains.

Some congested cities do allow property owners to block their own driveways. Implementation requires either parking enforcement personnel to have access to the database that links a license plate to an address, or else a permitting process.

Got a question? Email question@aaobserver.com.

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Observer Interview

Dan Oates Speaks Out

The onetime AAPD chief on why it's so hard to fire bad cops.

"Reform advocates are starting to focus on police unions' immense power to block the discipline of bad cops. Where have they been? Police chiefs have been fighting this lonely battle for years."

That was how Dan Oates began a June Washington Post opinion column. Recently retired as chief in Miami, Florida, Oates previously ran departments in Aurora, Colorado, and Ann Arbor, where he was chief from 2001 to 2005.

He continued:

"There cannot be true reform unless Americans elect politicians willing to take on obstructionist labor leaders. In Minneapolis, Police Chief Medaria Arradondo quickly fired the officers involved in the death of George Floyd. But very few chiefs have this ability. In my time as a chief in Michigan, Colorado and Florida, I never did, thanks to a combination of state and local laws, union contracts, and past labor precedents."

Oates praised the vast majority of cops as "heroes who sacrifice every day to protect you, me and the next George Floyd." But he also described his struggles to discipline officers in Florida and Colorado.

James Leonard spoke to him by phone a few days after the column appeared, and asked him about his experience in Ann Arbor.

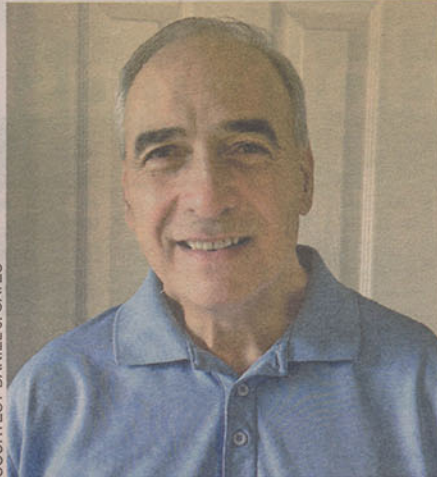
Observer: What did you think of the Ann Arbor Police Department?

Oates: I always felt that the cops individually were great. They were capable of doing great police work. But the collective consciousness as represented by the union was horrible.

Michigan had a really, really onerous arbitration statute [for labor disputes involving police officers]. If you wanted to make a policy change that impacted "working conditions" the union could grieve you and then take it to arbitration.

"Arbitrations suck the life out of a police chief," he wrote in the Post. "Instead of fighting crime or building community trust, you're huddled with lawyers, practicing testimony, memorizing evidence ... Too often, arbitrators feel the pressure to 'split the baby' in their decisions. Perhaps the cop [the chief fired] is docked pay or demoted; otherwise, he's back on patrol."

That was number one. And number two, city leaders over the years had given away additional rights to the union—the most significant of which was the right of assignment. Basically, cops in Ann Arbor



COURTESY DANIEL J. OATES

when I was there had a property interest in their assignment—which is absurd.

Observer: Can you give an example?

Oates: Fairly early on [I decided] that the lieutenant in charge of investigations in Ann Arbor doesn't belong in charge of investigations. ... I need to move him, but I can't. Once you're assigned, you have a property interest in it and you can't be moved.

Observer: What did you do?

Oates: [He] screwed up in a major way. And I disciplined him with a suspension, and he was so angry at me that we cut a deal: he retired and I was able to replace [him. After that,] I had a very, very high performing detective unit.

It was an isolated victory. Oates says he soon realized he couldn't significantly change the AAPD and left for Colorado.

In Aurora, he wrote in the Post, "I had 16 cops out of 650 whom I felt should be fired. Four I actually did fire. The Civil Service Commission promptly reversed me on three of them. So with the other 12 cops, I bent over backward to negotiate their departures with creative severance packages."

Yet he told the Observer, Aurora was a far better place to be a chief than Ann Arbor: though the city had given away substantial power to the union, he says, there was no binding arbitration—and "I controlled the assignments."

Observer: Do you have advice for Ann Arbor?

Oates: Insist that in the next contract that the right of assignment returns to the chief and just not agree to sign a contract unless that clause is removed ... That requires the courage to stand up to the union, but there's probably never been a better time for elected officials. Look what's happened: Colorado passed a sweeping reform bill.

The city can't change the state arbitration law, but its new police oversight commission has called on city council to renegotiate the contract to eliminate reviews within City Hall. That would give the chief final say on discipline—including firing.

In a follow-up email Oates calls that a "fantastic reform proposal."




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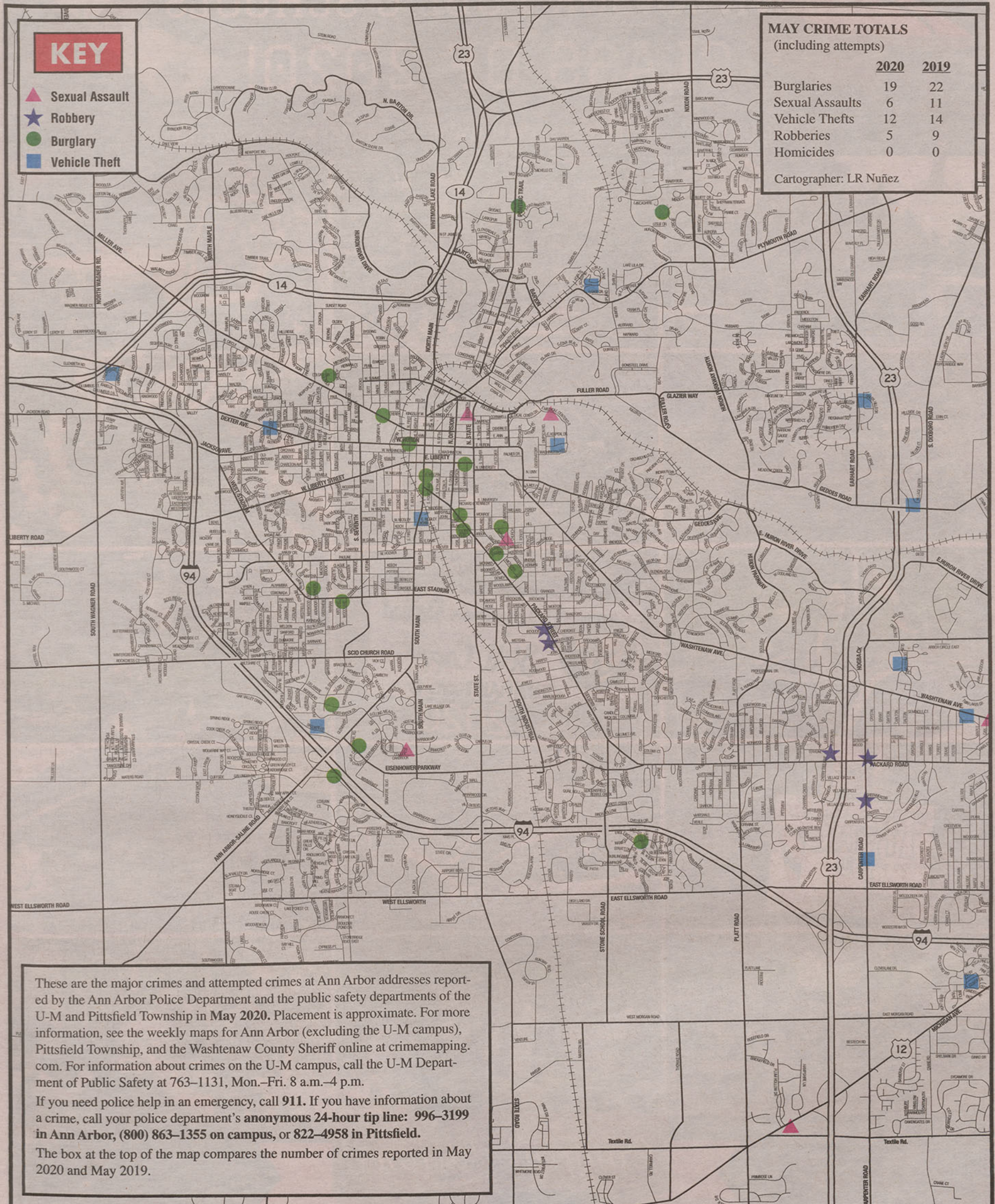
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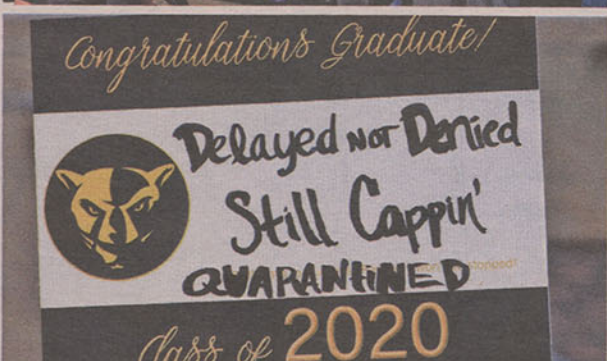
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Biostatistician Bhramar Mukherjee

*Helping India
manage the pandemic*

I'm the black sheep of my family, the outlier," Bhramar Mukherjee says, laughing. "I had to hide my math books inside comic books so my family wouldn't criticize the way I was spending my time."

Born in Kolkata into a family renowned in India's theater world, Mukherjee recalls dinner table conversations centering on the arts, theater, literature, and music—"things that were not quantifiable, raising questions that couldn't be resolved objectively. I preferred puzzles and problems with answers."

So instead of the arts, she studied statistics. After earning degrees in India, she won a scholarship to study in America, where she enrolled in master's and doctoral programs at Purdue.

Already married, she gave birth to her only child, a daughter, when she was twenty-four, juggling marriage and motherhood with graduate work while living half a world away from her support network and family of origin. (She and her husband subsequently divorced; her daughter is now a grad student and aspiring writer at the University of Chicago.)

After teaching at the University of Florida, Mukherjee was recruited by the U-M's biostatistics department in 2005. "Michigan offered me a chance to work with its schools of medicine and public health," she explains. "I enjoy translating complex social problems into mathematics, so it was a perfect fit for me."

Now the John D. Kalbfleisch professor of biostatistics, Mukherjee holds a dual appointment in global health and epidemiology and is chair-elect for the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies. But she is especially proud to be the first

woman to head the U-M biostatistics department.

By the end of last year, she had published more than 240 journal articles, most on the development and application of statistical methods in epidemiology, environmental health, and disease risk. But until Covid-19, she had never worked on infectious disease models.

That changed in early March, when Mukherjee was quarantined at home after contact with someone who tested positive for the novel coronavirus. She says she felt helpless, with her family far away and global travel restrictions. Because India had limited contacts with China, it lagged behind other countries in Covid-19 cases, but she knew it was only a matter of time.

"The slums of India are so densely packed, and migrant workers move from the city throughout the countryside to find work, so stopping the spread of coronavirus was a tremendous challenge for a country like India," she explains. "On top of Covid, India was hit by a cyclone that caused tremendous devastation. The times look apocalyptic."

With friends and colleagues, she formed the COV-IND-19 Study Group. They researched how the disease had spread in China and Italy, and sketched a statistical picture of India in the grip of the novel coronavirus.

A biostatistics colleague, Peter X. K. Song, had built an epidemiological model for the pandemic's epicenter, Hubei province in China. "He told me he couldn't change policy in China because the pandemic was well underway," Mukherjee recalls, "but he suggested I use this model for India."

When Mukherjee posted news of the project on medium.com, graduate students and colleagues offered to help—"particularly Indian students still on campus."



terms that are hidden in the data and help the public."

The lockdown saved the lives of countless people, but "ultimately it wasn't as effective as we had hoped," she adds. After two months, India's economy was struggling so dramatically that the lockdown was ended. Through mid June, India had counted more than 300,000 cases and 8,500 deaths.

Along with worldwide attention, the COV-IND-19 study generated "a strong feeling of social solidarity" among its members, Mukherjee says. "In the worst of times, it's wonderful to see people rise to the occasion and share a common mission for greater good."

Many grad students put their dissertations on hold to work with the group. "I'm finding it hard to get back to my research, too," she admits. "As statisticians doing this project, we were working on the ground for an immediate impact on tomorrow, not on theoretical cases. That was very satisfying."

Away from work, Mukherjee has immersed herself in Ann Arbor's theater, music, film, and art communities. "In truth, it was the Law Quad and Michigan Theater that especially attracted me to Ann Arbor at first," she says. "Ann Arbor is very liberal, very charming, and the arts here are a real draw. I'm so happy when I can watch and experience art."

Her father, a renowned actor, dreams of playing King Lear with his daughter starring on the stage with him. "I probably have a modest baseline ability to act because of my father's genes, but I never worked on it," the professor says. "My father is eighty years old now. I live and work in the United States. And the world is facing a pandemic, so I am sad to say he may not realize that dream."

She adds, "I don't think it was until the COV-IND-19 report was released, when my parents saw me on television, that they finally understood what I do for a living. Such is the hyphenated identity of an immigrant scholar, who balances a life across two continents."

—Cynthia Furlong Reynolds

When the group realized they needed economic expertise, a friend from the Delhi School of Economics signed on, as did an economist at U Mass Amherst.

"We really wanted to get the data out there immediately, hoping it would make a difference in India," Mukherjee says. Using Song's model and software, the volunteers completed a thirty-page report in an astounding four days. "We barely slept," she said. "We had a purpose, though none of us previously had modeling experience involving infectious diseases."

Released on March 22, the report was featured in media around the world. Its conclusion: "a man-made disruption" must be implemented to stop the burgeoning tide of Covid-19 cases before the virus decimates the slums and cities of India.

At the time, India had only 536 reported cases and eleven deaths. But the response was immediate and dramatic. On March 24, Indian prime minister Narendra Modi announced a nationwide lockdown. The work of Mukherjee's volunteer group in Michigan had ramifications half a world away.

"You can't call this a typical success story for a biostatistician," says one colleague admiringly.

"I'm a data scientist," says Mukherjee. "I cannot go to the front line and cure people or work on developing drugs. I can only try to unravel the pat-

And when this [virus] has passed
may we say that love spread more quickly
than any virus ever could;
may we say this was not just an ending
but also a place to begin.

Christine Valters Painter, Abbey of the Arts



Is life in the time of Covid-19 a "new normal" or a rare opportunity to embrace new beginnings that can positively affect our future and our faith? Explore this theme through worship, small groups, Christian formation & more.



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PHOTOS MARK BIALEK

by Josie Schneider

On March 16, with Covid-19 spreading exponentially, Michigan governor Gretchen Whitmer issued an executive order closing all “places of public accommodation.” Restaurants and bars closed their seating areas and immediately began hemorrhaging money.

Owners and managers stayed up nights worrying their businesses couldn’t weather the storm. “The stress was palpable,” wrote Phillis Engelbert, co-owner of the Lunch Room and Detroit Street Filling Station, in an online post. “I felt like I could lose my business—my baby—the entity into which I had poured every drop of blood, sweat and tears for a decade.”

The Observer’s online City Guide currently lists 374 restaurants and bars in Ann Arbor (including the Ann Arbor zip codes and school district). In May, I emailed them all to ask how they were coping.

Thirty-eight responded, some with one-word answers, others with pages-long diaries. Only twelve answered the question, “Is your closure permanent, temporary, or uncertain?” Half said “temporary” and half said “uncertain.” I also talked by phone with seven restaurant owners and managers that oversee a total of twenty-four Ann Arbor establishments.

Engelbert responded to our survey with a link to her online crisis journal, the Detroit Street Dispatch (thelunchrooma2.com/dispatch).

“My first inkling that something was really wrong came on Friday night March 6,” she wrote. “Before that, I had heard there was a worrisome virus sweeping Asia. Our health inspector mentioned it in early February during a routine inspection at our bakery & cafe. He said it had begun in the open-air markets where live animals are held and slaughtered for sale. I remember joking that being a vegan restaurant, it would never affect us.”

She realized otherwise at a dance party at LIVE. She met one friend who’d just been laid off from a U-M catering department, and another who reported that university functions at downtown restaurants were being canceled.

Her sales started to drop the next day—and kept dropping. “The true benchmarks came when universities started shutting down and sending students home. Harvard and the other Ivy Leagues came first, then OSU and others close to home. U-M closed that Wednesday. My student-workers left town. Ann Arbor public schools closed on Thursday. Sales plummeted. It felt like a slow march toward financial death.” When the closure order came, she decided to shutter the Lunch Room and concentrate on takeout at the Filling Station.

Takeout wasn’t an option for Micah Bartelme, whose BarStar Group owns Bab’s Underground, Nightcap, Lo-Fi, and the Aut Bar. When I talked to him during the shutdown, stress was palpable in his voice. It was, he said, “the weirdest and hardest” time of his life. Overnight, he lost 100 percent of his income.

“We took on new debt and new liabilities to even maintain our obligation to

leases and vendors, insurance, etc.,” he says. “Even in the best of times in the hospitality industry, things are pretty difficult, and these are clearly the worst of times, which have made things near impossible. Nothing is promised.”

Most restaurant and bar employees were furloughed or laid off, adding yet another layer to an already fraught situation for owners. Workers are often like family (or are indeed family), so already besieged owners jumped to their aid.

Kevin Gudejko, president and CEO of Mainstreet Ventures, said sales dropped 90 percent. They shut five of their six Ann Arbor restaurants to concentrate on a “greatest hits” takeout menu at Carson’s. But the biggest impact was on their workers. “Can we continue paying benefits?” Gudejko wondered when we spoke to him. “Can we continue paying insurance, and how’s that going to work?”

The administrative headaches compounded the stress of trying to keep going with less staff and much less income. “I have had to work more than I have ever worked in my life,” wrote one owner on our survey. “It has been overall emotionally and financially devastating. I rarely see my family, have no functional income, and fear for my life and health everyday.”

“It’s really weird being in an empty spot all day that used to be hustling and bustling,” wrote another. “Some days I feel useless and helpless ... like there isn’t much I can do to affect change. Up and down. Up and down. Pretty much how I’m sure most people are feeling these days.”

Many restaurants raised funds via GoFundMe campaigns. All of Bartelme’s bars

By the time outdoor dining returned in June, eleven restaurants had announced they were closing for good.

had them, raising more than \$12,000—all of which, he told me, went to laid-off staff. Everyone I spoke to applied for federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, which can be forgiven as long as most of the money goes toward paying staff. Disbursement of those funds, as well as state unemployment compensation, was often delayed as the systems overloaded. But the eventual help, including the additional \$600-per-week federal unemployment benefit, eased the initial panic.

Walking through deserted downtown Ann Arbor on April 21, lit signs in some restaurant windows announced the establishments were open. New banners added “Curbside Only” and a phone number, printed extra large. I saw only three other people on the sidewalk and no cars stopping at any restaurants for curbside pickup—but it was only 11 a.m.

Once takeout got up to speed—some inventive owners added grocery pickup, too—sales leveled off. But in my email survey, only one restaurant reported doing even half its usual business. Twenty-three of our thirty-eight respondents said sales were down at least 75 percent.

Another question asked how long they could sustain themselves on their current

revenue. Four felt that one month was the limit, while ten said they could carry on for three months. Six could handle six months, and five restaurants could stay open for a year. But even the most financially secure were stressed. "Our landlord was and continues to be unwilling to offer any relief or deferment," one wrote. "They are simply demanding full rent. Fortunately, we have been successful enough that I would say this is sustainable for the foreseeable future. But that is without our full staff, meaning 30 of our 38 employees would be out of work."

One response was simply to put food on the table. Carson's prepared a "family meal" each day for all of Mainstreet Ventures' laid-off employees and their families. The Last Word, one of six establishments managed by Watershed Hospitality Group, offered carryout meals for all displaced hospitality workers. With the help of donations from other Ann Arbor restaurants, including Zinger-man's, HOMES Brewery, and Jefferson Market, as well as cash from the public, they're still giving out 100 meals every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

The list of area restaurants helping those in need is long. Ayse's Turkish Café donates food to the De-lonis Center. Palm Palace and the Detroit Street Filling Station donate meals for out-of-school kids. The Blue LLama jazz club and Hut-Kay Fusion offer food to anyone in need.

Curbside pickup quickly became the norm. Drive up to the restaurant and text, and a masked and gloved employee delivers food to your trunk.

"Once we got rolling and got better at it, it was really popular—and there was a lot of community support," says David Ritchie, vice president of operations at Mission Restaurant Group (Blue Tractor, Grizzly Peak, Jolly Pumpkin, Mash, Pretzel Bell). The carryout orders came in fast and furious between 5 and 7 p.m., some days with as many orders as they might have seen in a whole evening before the pandemic, but now with only five workers instead of the previous forty. "There were days we were really overwhelmed," says Ritchie.

By early June, the Covid curve had flattened. On June 8, restaurants were allowed to reopen their dining rooms—with new precautions that include leaving half their seats empty.

The next day, I donned my mask and headed back to a busier downtown. Clusters of walkers slid by me. Pockets of outdoor diners enjoyed lovely spring weather in front of restaurants up and down Main St., Liberty, Ashley, and Washington.

But not everyone was participating. In our survey we asked, "If dine-in is permitted but under social distance rules, would you reopen?"

"No. Not right away," one responded. "We'll let others be the guinea pigs. It's more important for us to do it right than to do it quickly."

"Hopefully we will resume with enough business to cover rent (which is outrageous), payroll (with less staff), and monthly bills," said another. "If I 'go down the rabbit hole', I realize the business has had many great years. It may be time for us to close our doors. Regardless of the outcome, downtown will never be the same again."

Eleven places had already announced they wouldn't be reopening. And no one expects them to be the only casualties.

The casualties include the Aut Bar. Bartelme says he "had hopes of preserving a community treasure. Unfortunately, it was unsustainable. The economics just didn't work."

"We'll be operating at a loss for twelve months, we figure," says Micah Bartelme of BarStar Group. Mainstreet Ventures' Kevin Gudejko fears 20 percent of Ann Arbor's restaurants may close.

Arbor Brewing Company closed its original Washington St. location after twenty-five years. Its offspring, the Corner Brewery in Ypsilanti and the Tap Room in Plymouth, continue, and Michael Collins of Farm + Ferment (which also owns Bigalora) says he's looking for a spot away from downtown.

"We were able to work with the landlord and get out of our remaining two-and-a-half years on the lease," Collins says. He thinks the landlord would be happy with a nonrestaurant tenant.

The other closures are the four Espresso Royale cafés, Prickly Pear, Logan, Chow Asian Street Food, Classic Cup Café, and the TeaHaus tea room.

Moving into these uncharted waters, no one is clear-eyed. The only muscular action is the scrubbing of everything in sight, over and over. All other actions are tentative. Wooing the public back is uncertain, as restaurant workers still fear for their own health.

Most restaurants will continue with the popular curbside pickup—permanently, they say. The new frontier is contactless payment.

Mission Restaurant Group has added QR codes to each table. When scanned with a smartphone, the menu appears.

At Ayse's, the inside will remain closed, but the generous outdoor space next to their window will allow for almost a "full house."

Bigalora called back all of their furloughed staff on June 8.

Philosophy and dreaming poured out in equal measure to our question, "What is

your most hopeful vision for the business going forward? Your most pessimistic?"

"My pessimism stems from questioning whether or not we'll be able to, as a state and society, have a safe reopening," says Adam Lowenstein of Watershed Hospitality, which, besides the Last Word, runs the Alley Bar, Good Time Charley's, Cantina Taqueria, and LIVE. "I want to believe we've been through the worst of it."

"We'll be operating at a loss for twelve months, we figure," says Bartelme. Mainstreet Ventures' Gudejko fears 20 percent of Ann Arbor's restaurants may close.

Pam Pietryga, owner of Pizza Bob's, is one of many who say they're working harder than they ever have in their lives. "I remain optimistic about the future," she writes, "but I have no special ability to know what will happen from one day to the next."

Heidi Keller, general manager of Arbor Tree Lounge, fears that we'll lose the distinctive local places that draw talent to our city. "I'm part of Gen X. I need to elevate my voice. I need to do more. I need to do more with culinary schools, sit on boards where I can. I need to stop talking so much and get involved."

Lauren Bloom of Blom Meadows writes eloquently: "Our most hopeful vision is that our community stabilizes and is safe, and we're able to confidently reopen along with all of the other local businesses that keep our town vibrant. That we can come together over drinks and events and gather without fear. That [we are] open and bustling, which in turn means we can continue to buy from and support Michigan farmers and growers. And perhaps that some of the habits and lessons we've all learned along the way—new hobbies, a commitment to buying local, an even deeper love for our local parks, our joy in simple interactions—stick around and change us for the better."

On June 13, knotting my scarf against the chilly evening breeze, I anticipated empty outdoor tables as I turned onto Main St. from William. But as I rounded the corner, sights, sounds, and smells told a different story. The city had closed the street, and restaurants had set up tables there, making for a festive atmosphere. During my entire walk down the middle of closed downtown streets, I saw just one empty outdoor table, at Sweetwaters on Washington.

Diners shivered as the sun receded. Many departed, but some hardy stalwarts stayed to enjoy their first meal out in almost three months. It was a one-day sample, but Gudejko emails that Mainstreet Ventures' outstate restaurants, which opened two or more weeks earlier, remain busy now—an indicator, he hopes, that will repeat in their Ann Arbor establishments.

All sides are tentative however—owners, workers, and diners—with only one thing for sure: no one wants a new wave of infections and another lockdown.

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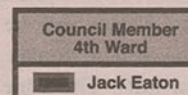
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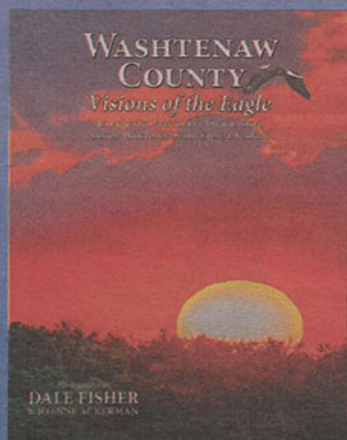


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A PIVOTAL RACE FOR PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Three very different candidates promise to transform the criminal justice system.

by James Leonard

Even with five hotly contested Ann Arbor city council races, easily the August 4 Democratic primary's most consequential race is for county prosecutor. Councilmembers generally come and go, but whoever wins the contest for prosecutor will likely hold the job as long as she or he wants it.

Though their resumés and plans differ, all three say they want to transform the county's current criminal justice system. They aren't running against one another as much as they are against retiring prosecutor Brian Mackie, who has been in office since 1992. They see Mackie as the personification of what's wrong with the system now.

"Our criminal justice system nationally needs reform," says Eli Savit, the city of Detroit's senior legal counsel and a U-M law lecturer. "I saw a lot of this playing out right here in Washtenaw County."

Arianne Slay says Mackie's prosecutors aren't "really focused on rehabilitation." The Ann Arbor senior assistant city attorney spent nine years in the county prosecutor's office herself—but says that, unlike her former boss, "I believe that restorative justice works."

So does Hugo Mack, currently an Ypsilanti defense attorney and former Washtenaw County public defender. He believes he is "by far the best qualified for the position pound for pound, as they would say in the boxing game, to get restorative justice to the people of Washtenaw County."

Restorative justice seeks to replace punishment with programs that reconcile offenders with their victims and community. With the integrity of the criminal justice system being questioned as never before, it's not surprising that all three candidates endorse it.

At seventy-one, Mackie's on the wrong side of that movement—but he's not going quietly (see box, p. 27).

Along with wanting to transform the justice system, all three candidates are graduates of Pioneer High School. That's where the resemblances end.

Hugo Mack, sixty-five, is the only candidate to have run for public office before—almost. "I was in the process of running for 15th District Court [judge in 1992] when the situation came up."



ARIANNE SLAY



ELI SAVIT



HUGO MACK

Hugo Mack, Arianne Slay, and Eli Savit all would put more emphasis on "restorative justice."

The "situation" was Mack's arrest and conviction for rape. Though he served ten years in prison, he continues to refer to the episode as "the false allegation."

Asked in a follow-up email if the conviction was ever reversed, he responds that "vindication/reversal do not always come in traditional ways."

"In 2010, Michigan Supreme Court did something never done before in the State's history, upon review they granted my application for re-admission to the bar, they were fully aware of 1993 and my challenged but never conquered integrity."

Eli Savit, thirty-seven, announced his candidacy more than a year ago, in May 2019. "It's my first time running, and I needed to get out there in the community," he explains. "I thought I was challenging a twenty-eight-year incumbent." Instead, Mackie announced his retirement that June.

Savit says he would fundamentally change the prosecutor's office by not "getting the justice system involved in the first place. The only cases that I think should end

up with a jail sentence [are when] somebody's actions show that they are a threat to the health and well-being of the community."

"We need much more focus on rehabilitation and treatment over incarceration. We've got diversion and deflection programs, [but] those have been used far too sparingly by the current prosecutor's office. The prosecutor has been an impediment to the establishment of what we call problem-solving courts."

Savit is the only candidate without experience as a prosecutor or defense attorney. But the former clerk to Supreme Court justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sandra Day O'Connor points to a wide range of other courtroom experience, including public interest and civil rights cases. "If we're serious about promoting equity—and holding corporations accountable when they break the law—that's experience we should want in our county prosecutor."

One reason Savit says "people have been pushing for more prosecutorial reform" in Washtenaw County is that "there's been a lot of dissatisfaction [with] the way that the Aura Rosser shooting was handled." The mentally ill Rosser was shot and killed by an Ann Arbor officer in November 2014 as she advanced on him with a knife. Both Mackie's office and the state police determined the shooting was justified, but protests against the decision continue.

"The way the Aura Rosser shooting was handled was unacceptable," Savit emails. "The Washtenaw Prosecutor should have never kept that case. A special prosecutor—one who doesn't work day-in and day-out with the police department—should have been appointed."

Arianne Slay, forty, also hasn't run before. She says she announced last spring because "Eli was out, and Hugo was kind of talking about it."

"Lumm has helped bring more transparency and dialog to council discussions, asking the skeptical questions that others weren't asking in the past. There's now more open debate of issues as a result."

"Lumm works hard to keep the City's finances in line and we applaud that."

"Lumm has shown a strong loyalty to her ward and regularly seeks out answers and solutions for her constituents while maintaining a perspective on the greater needs of the city."

Ann Arbor News Editorials —
(Jane's Previous Elections)

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Jane Lumm

Democratic Primary August 4

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Some of the many Ann Arbor residents and elected officials who have endorsed Jane Lumm for re-election to City Council

"Jane Lumm is the hardest working member on City Council. The Second Ward and Ann Arbor as a whole need to retain her knowledge, dedication, and graciousness." **Jack Eaton**, Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 4

"Council Member Jane Lumm is indispensable. She combs through every budget and agenda item, and gives all of us the benefit of her diligence, common sense, and depth of knowledge and experience. She speaks out for the concerns of her constituents and residents city-wide, and is all the more effective because she does it with unflagging courtesy." **Anne Bannister**, Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 1

"We are fortunate to have someone like Jane Lumm willing to serve in these challenging economic times. Jane will continue to represent the 2nd Ward with financial restraint and provide hands-on, neighborhood friendly constituent service." **Kathy Griswold**, Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 2

"Jane's deep knowledge and thoughtfulness about city budgets is now needed all the more on City Council. She digs into details as well as big pictures, and she asks the questions that need to be asked. Her common-sense and respectful attitude are precious assets in Council deliberations."

Elizabeth Nelson, Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 4

"I was one of six Democrats on Council who urged Jane to run again this year. Jane has great institutional knowledge, and she comes to every meeting well prepared on our long list of agenda items. She is a voice of reason and a resource for the rest of us. She and I sometimes disagree, but it is always amicable, because Jane treats other people with respect." **Jeff Hayner**, Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 1

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"I appreciate all these wonderful endorsements, but I also need your vote."

Please vote: Tuesday, August 4. Thank You! —Jane

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Paid for by Jane Lumm for City Council, Jack Cederquist, Treasurer 3075 Overridge Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

A PIVOTAL RACE FOR PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

She doesn't criticize her opponents directly. All she will say about Mack is that "he qualified, so he's on the ballot." She agrees that Savit "has experience. But what I bring is relevant experience with prosecution."

In any other year, Slay's time as an assistant prosecutor would be her greatest asset. In the current climate, it may be her greatest liability. She stresses that she wasn't always happy with the way Mackie ran things when she worked there.

"Some days were struggles. We didn't have a lot of autonomy—[there were] a lot of blanket policies [which] don't allow for individual programs for rehabilitation," she says. "And that was very hard for me."

Slay says in her 2017 job interview with city attorney Stephen Postema, "my biggest question to him was, 'how much

In any other year, Slay's time as an assistant prosecutor would be her greatest asset. In the current climate, it may be her greatest liability.

autonomy will I have to try reform?" And he said, 'you've got it.'"

Slay says that autonomy was "game changing because it allowed us to do programs that the city and county has not seen—diversion and deflection programs" to keep as many offenders as possible out of court.

Asked for an example of people who deserve diversion, Slay says, "We're locking somebody up [for stealing] a Slurpee from the 7-Eleven. Is that really helping?"

Told that her former boss says that doesn't happen (see box), Slay concedes folks are "maybe not initially" jailed for minor thefts. "But they'll have a probation violation where they miss two [AA] meetings or they're behind on their community service. And then they end up locked up."

Judges, not prosecutors, set probation terms and punish violations. But in a follow-up email, Slay argues that prosecutors "must take a more active role in the sentencing hearing and recommendations ... to promote terms that address the root causes of justice involvement." In her current docket, she writes, "many if not most of my cases are part of a diversion or deflection program"—for example, by referring offenders to mental health and substance abuse services rather than prosecuting them.

Mack has two campaign managers, nurse Corey Warren and entrepreneur Gigi Jones. He says 150 volunteers are "doing a lot of texting and video chatting [and] phone networking."

Mack's website has testimonials from community members but no elected of-

ficials. "This campaign is not based on a big-name endorsement, alright?" he says. Nor is it financed by big money. His December 2019 disclosure showed total donations of \$625, with the biggest contribution, \$200, from one of his campaign managers. "This campaign is about message," he says. "It's not about money"—though he still hopes to raise a "minimum of \$75,000."

Savit's campaign manager is Brighton lawyer Charlie Widmaier, and he says they've got 200 volunteers and seventy interns working the campaign. Before the pandemic shut down in-person campaigning, Savit says, "we had upwards of fifty house parties in people's living rooms and gone to probably hundreds of community events." Since then, he figures they've made more than 20,000 phone calls.

Savit's endorsers include state senator Jeff Irwin and county water commissioner Evan Pratt. In late May, his campaign

was "very close to our fundraising goals of \$175,000." He's got about a thousand individual contributors, including county clerk/register of deeds Larry Kestenbaum, city council candidates Lisa Disch and Travis Radina, and his boss, Detroit mayor Mike Duggan—though Savit's own \$12,060 contribution was by far the largest.

Slay's campaign manager is one-time board of education candidate Jeremy Glick, and she says they have "hundreds" of volunteers. They'd "planned on door knocking" but now "we're converting into phone calling."

She's endorsed by sheriff Jerry Clayton and former mayor John Hieftje. By late May, she says, her campaign had raised around \$85,000 to \$90,000, and "I'm hoping to bring in another forty to fifty." Slay's contributors include police chief Mike Cox; her current boss, Stephen Postema; and her former boss, Mackie—who gave \$3,450. ■

MACKIE FOR THE DEFENSE

The prosecutor responds to his critics.

Brian Mackie says he's retiring at seventy-one because he's "very aware of mortality and the fact that I'm on borrowed time. My father was fifty-one [when he died and] his younger brother died even younger than that."

First elected in 1992, after a few years as a public defender in Wayne County and thirteen as an assistant to predecessor Bill Delhey, Mackie came up in the criminal justice system when the new causes were domestic violence and victims' rights. He embraced both.

When the Observer profiled Mackie in 2001, the chief complaint from defense attorneys was that his office charged domestic violence cases too aggressively. And Mackie points out that "Michigan was the first state that put victims' rights into the state constitution.

"That was back in the late eighties, a very, very different time," he says. "We should be proud of putting victims first, but now we only care about offenders."

Savit's "claim that I am an impediment to treatment courts is demonstrably false," he says. "We actively participate in all the specialty courts. Tomorrow, for example, one of my assistants and I will be in a Zoom meeting with our team preparing for an adult drug court."

Asked about Slay's suggestion that his office seeks jail terms for folks who steal Slurpees, Mackie emails, "I would like to see the case. Rarely do we lock men up who assault their partners. Even more rare is having a judge sentence someone to jail for a property crime.

"Despite the popular argument that prisons are filled with shoplifters, dope smokers and car thieves, Michigan judges lock up people we should be afraid of," the veteran prosecutor continues.

When people talk about high rates of incarceration, he writes, what they "fail to talk about is that Michigan is the second most violent state in the Midwest [with] a violent crime rate more than fifty percent higher than the state of Ohio ... 74% of Michigan's prison inmates are sentenced for a violent crime (a figure which the national ACLU reports). Nationally, the figure is closer to 53% of prison sentences being for violent crimes."

Despite Slay's criticisms, he says he's supporting her because she "is the only candidate who knows how to do the job. She was a good, very capable assistant."

Aura Rosser's 2014 shooting by an Ann Arbor cop has gained new resonance during the ongoing protests against unjustified police killings. Asked about Savit's call for a special prosecutor, Mackie emails, "Mr. Savit should settle on a position: He once called for the officer in Ms. Rosser's death to be charged. He later said that he did not have enough information. All the information, absent autopsy photos and scene photos of Ms. Rosser's body, are on the county website ... Mr. Savit's statements illustrate that experience prosecuting or defending criminal cases is essential to do this work properly.

"No serious person thinks there is evidence to prove that the killing of that poor woman was not justified," Mackie adds. "There is demonstrable proof of that fact: Unlike other killing of civilians around the country, neither Mr. Savat [sic], or anyone else, called for an investigation by the Department of Justice. [That] is because they knew what the result of a federal investigation would have to be. Charging an innocent person for political advantage would have consequences.

"Ms. Rosser was exploited in life and she is being exploited in death." —J.L.

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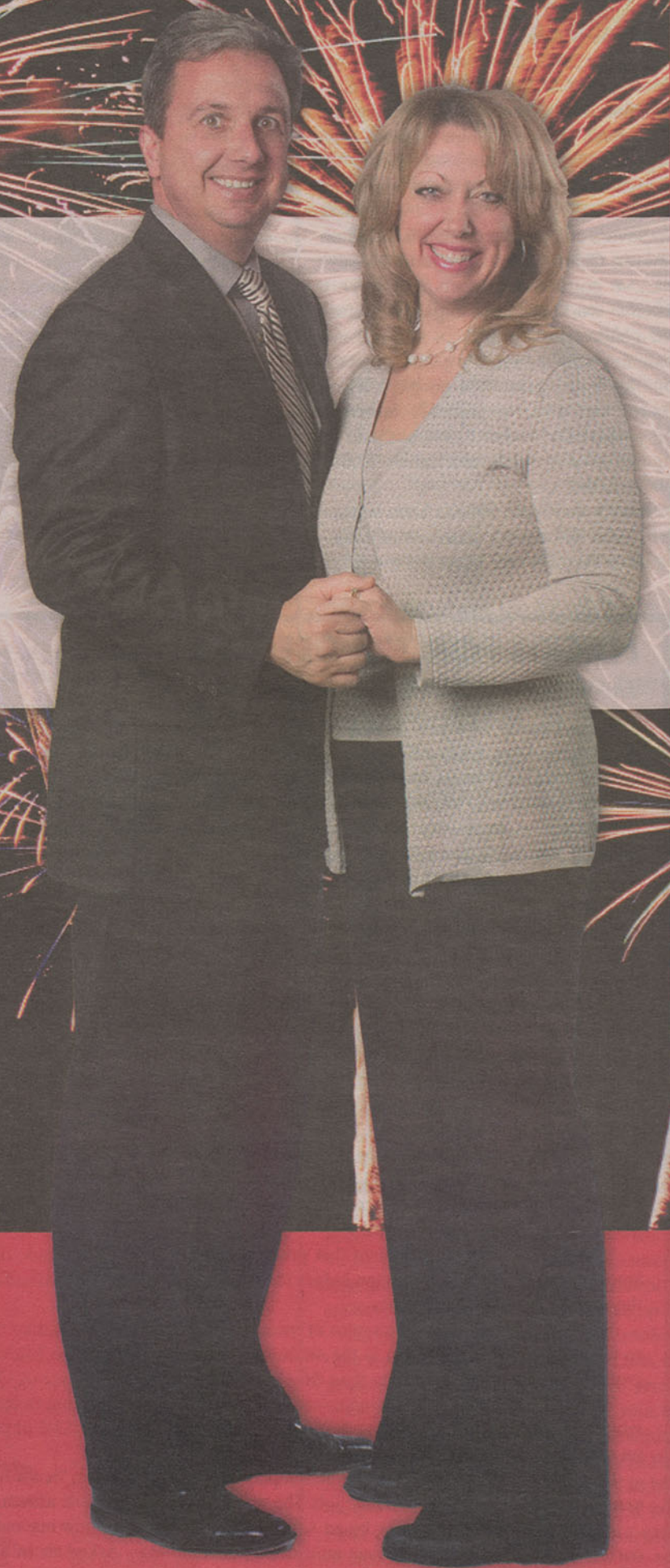


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ne of the indoor track-and-field stadiums was going to be a hospital," Valerie Vaughn recalls. "I remember walking through and just imagining it with people laying down on cots on it, and just being scared to death."

Michigan Medicine passed a milestone in June when a day passed with no new Covid-19 admissions. But back in March and April, a third of the beds at University Hospital were filled with pandemic patients. Detroit's hospitals were overwhelmed, and there were fears that Ann Arbor's hospitals might follow.

Vaughn was there. According to the U-M's Institute for Healthcare Policy's website, she "helped create a new kind of hospital team focused on caring for patients with COVID-19, learned how to provide an intensive level of care for the sickest among them, trained hundreds of physicians in how to do the same, and created free online learning tools for physicians nationwide."

In June, after Michigan's statewide lockdown "flattened the curve" of new infections, she reflected on her months on the frontline.

Talking by phone one evening in mid June, Vaughn explained how she and her colleagues "opened up an entire unit dedicated to care for Covid patients who needed ICU care plus built additional ICU space in our surgical waiting room preoperative area ... We normally have about 100 ICU beds, and we went up to 250 during the height of the pandemic."

Before Covid-19, Laraine Washer, medical director of infection control and an epidemiologist, was "taking care of patients with infections of various sorts, and instituting policies to prevent infections in patients."

"But this [Covid] is a whole new scale," Washer says. "We've had pandemic plans in place for a long time," but they "had to be quickly changed and broadened for this epidemic."

With Covid, Vaughn explains, "there's this period of time between when you get it and when you express symptoms. That's the asymptomatic period that everyone worries about, because you're contagious but not yet symptomatic."

"Then there's this period that can last anywhere from five to fourteen days, of having symptoms, and [it] feels somewhat like a bad flu. In some people [it] can be very mild. But the most common symptoms during that time period are cough, fever and shortness of breath."

"Then, for reasons we don't know, some people then get better, and there are no issues. Other people, as their immune systems fight off the virus ... [it] goes overboard."

"That's when you see people who have been starting to get better, or were not doing great but not doing badly for days, and then suddenly get worse. Their fevers start getting really high, and they start getting incredibly short of breath ... you measure their oxygen, and it's very dangerously low, and you get a chest X-ray or a chest

COURTESY VALERIE VAUGHN



PEAK MEDICINE

Reflections on the Battle of Covid-19

by Jan Schlain



CT of their lungs, and their lungs look riddled with inflammation."

That's the cytokine storm. Cytokine cells "signal that there's an inflammatory response going on in the body," Washer explains. Patients often "have very high spiky fevers ... We can see low blood pressure. We can see acute kidney injury," sometimes caused by blood clots—which also can damage the lungs.

"I think there are a couple of things that makes this disease so devastating to older people," says Washer. "One, is that we are all naive to this virus. None of us have been exposed or have any immunity." Covid is also more dangerous "for those who have comorbid infections or diseases, like diabetes, or heart disease or lung disease, and those are more common in older adults."

The immune system itself becomes less

MORE THAN HALF OF THE COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO DIED OF COVID WERE OVER EIGHTY.

With Covid, clotting "was way more common than anything I've ever seen" in other infections, Vaughn says. It's what put a lot of patients in the ICU. Often, "we were giving them anticoagulation drugs even if they didn't have clots to try to prevent them from getting them."

Some patients got Remdesivir, an antiviral drug, as part of a clinical trial. In another trial, patients suffering cytokine storms got an "Interleukin fix inhibitor," Vaughn says, "to basically stop their immune system for a little bit."

They don't have data that ties the risk of clots, or of the immune system going haywire, to age. But they do know, Vaughn says, "that if you were on a ventilator, your mortality was much higher; if you were older, your mortality was much higher."

According to the Washtenaw County Health Department, none of the 106 county residents who died from Covid-19 by mid June were under forty, and only one was under fifty. More than half were over eighty.

effective with age, Washer adds. And lastly, "a large number of the older adults who have been impacted by Covid have lived in congregant settings like nursing homes ... and their risk of exposure in those settings has been high."

Elderly patients aren't just more likely to die of Covid, Vaughn says. "There are so many ways being older makes it more difficult to survive ... with a good quality of life."

"We might be able to save your body," Vaughn says. But after weeks in the ICU in an induced coma, you're likely to lose some brain function. "Maybe you're not the same person you were before," she says. "Maybe you can't ever get up and walk or take care of yourself."

That's why, she says, it's essential to talk about advance directives. "If you don't want to be in that place where you're dependent on someone else for going to the bathroom or getting out of bed, then

Valerie Vaughn (center) with Covid C Unit staff, April 8, 2020

maybe we say we only provide medical care up to a certain point, and after that focus on comfort and making sure that you don't suffer. We let the body's natural dying process go through."

She had a lot of those talks. "I actually think it's one of my most important jobs as a doctor," Vaughn says. "Because if we put someone on a ventilator and keep their body alive for two months, and at the end of it they don't remember who their loved ones are, they never leave a nursing home again, that's not a success story."

"What I can do as a doctor is help provide context and then listen to people. Maybe they have certain religious beliefs that say that x, y, and z need to happen or maybe they really want to survive to know their child graduated."

Others already had thought these questions through with their primary care doctor and their family and provided advance directives.

Vaughn recalls "many beautiful situations" where "instead of dying on a breathing machine, their family actually came in, we put them in PPE and gowns and masks and all of that, and [they] got to be there while their family member was still lucid. It's a much better way often of saying goodbye than dying on a machine."

I never understood people who enlisted in the Army, saw horrible things, and then the second they got back home, reenlisted, and went back," Vaughn says. "It just never made sense to me—until this."

She cites "the camaraderie of the people you're working with, who are also amazing, and also doing the best that they can; the patients; and the families, who are just amazing. Even when you'd be telling them that their loved ones were dying, [they] would tell you 'thank you' at the end of the phone call."

Sometimes there were thanks from strangers, too. "Coming out of work every day and seeing the notes painted on the ground for us, seeing the signs in people's yards, it really meant a lot," Vaughn says.

"The bad news is we all think there will be another wave," she adds. "None of us know what that will look like. And anybody who says that they know is probably misjudging their knowledge."

Washer says her "hope is that this very near-time experience with this disease will make it very real to people and really make it more likely that a larger number of people will embrace vaccination."

But whatever happens, they've learned a tremendous amount about how to handle a pandemic. If "we have to expand our ICUs again, we'll be better equipped," Vaughn says. "I think the community will hopefully be responsive and aggressively social distancing again the next time around."

"That's my optimism. I think we're all better prepared than we were the first time."



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Restaurant Reviews

Two Takes on the Blue Llama

Food and music at Main St.'s jazzy supper club

These reviews are based on visits before Michigan's pandemic shutdown. Originally scheduled for the Observer's April issue, they were held until the club could resume live performances and table service.



KATHERINE DOWNIE

The food

Frankly, I was worried about reviewing Blue Llama, a Main Street newcomer and arguably Ann Arbor's most sophisticated venue. Not just a restaurant, it's also a jazz club, and when it comes to jazz, I'm a musical troglodyte. Raised on country, grown up in folk and then rock and roll, and disposed towards blues, I rarely "get" jazz scores. Also, do foodies really want a band playing a few feet away? Do musicians appreciate folks chewing and sipping and chatting in their faces? But the fusion of food and music is central to Blue Llama's concept, and supper clubs, after all, have been around for decades, so I made a first foray with a friend.

The evening didn't go exactly as I'd hoped: that night, the music seemed to jangle more than jingle. "Not only doesn't jazz sing to me," my friend declared, "it actively hurts! On the other hand, the food is incredible. Why do you need to have jazz when the food is this yummy?"

"Besides," she continued, "you can't talk—or play—to me while I'm eating forty-four-dollar lamb; I gotta pay attention!"

I left her to her lamb chops and surveyed the room. The scene was urbane, cool but warm, with big city vibes. Above us, the ceiling faded into an evening sky of halos and sequins. Next to us, a guy taking classes from the guitar player had surprised us by admitting he came to jazz through country (Willie Nelson's album of standards). Behind us, a family of four ate a dinner of snacks, the kids engulfed in adolescent boredom, the parents listening appreciatively to the music. A crowd of diverse colors and ages filled the adjacent dining room, leaning back against soft

banquettes, or rhythmically bobbing their heads at stage-front tables.

Two servers—one, her hair bound at the crown like the feathers of a bird's tail, the other's swept up to cascade down in a great froth à la Cher from *Moonstruck*—glided smoothly among the tables. The hostess, slim, elegant, beautifully put together—a *Vogue* ideal rarely seen in Ann Arbor—dropped off amuse-bouches and second cocktails. I sighed contentedly and took another sip of wine.

Two servers—one, her hair bound at the crown like the feathers of a bird's tail, the other's swept up to cascade down in a great froth à la Cher from Moonstruck—glided smoothly among the tables.

If I was partially hooked, a subsequent visit with my husband and a couple far more fluent in the genre reeled me in. Though we had never met before, we had a great time discovering we had much in

common, and, once the music began, we all found it engaging and polished; my husband, a former stand-up bassist—folk, not jazz—was particularly impressed by the group. And the room was as lively and cosmopolitan—and jazzed—as before.

And the food? It, too, stands up to the scene. With a concept of shared plates, many of executive chef Louis Goral's dishes tend toward small samples of high-end ingredients—artichokes, oysters, foie gras, scallops, wild mushrooms. Consequently, while the quality is high, prices can be, too, like my friend's \$44 lamb chops (two, deliciously executed, with a scoop of wild rice). But don't let that stop you. The menu's vegetable category, in particular, is studded with intriguing—and less expensive—options.

The kitchen starts each table's experience with an inventive, mysteriously constructed amuse-bouche—one night a passion fruit and pear sphere, another a coconut-lime tickle. From the menu, bacon-wrapped artichokes feature fresh (not

frozen, not canned!!) quarters encircled in pork and drizzled with Meyer lemon aioli—promising, if tiny. Segments of grilled octopus, entangled with pickled onions on toast, left us all wishing for more. Goral's baked oysters—sort of a rustic version of oysters Rockefeller employing Swiss chard and cheddar—are both filling and elegant. Roasted squash bisque, silky and sublime, surprises with an earthy garnish of crumbled *morcilla*. Another appetizer, crispy deviled eggs—panko-crust fried whites standing as a base for a yellow pyramid of spiced filling—has to be the most stylized presentation of this classic I've ever seen.

Goral's tamale *bolitas* (corn and masa dumplings) are fabulously inventive, and the smoked potatoes with chorizo and a poached egg—admittedly as much protein as produce—offer yet another reason to eat breakfast at dinner.

Like the lamb chops, respectable-but-unexceptional boneless Berkshire ribs with blue cheese and bacon potato salad (\$35 for three small strips) make me question value for price, but three diver scallops, perfectly sautéed and enrobed in a satiny miso beurre blanc, seem worthy of the \$29 extravagance. And the beef Wellington, a stand-alone at \$44, rests on its plate as the very epitome of willful indulgence—rosy, tender meat, flaky pastry, seductive sauce.

Desserts aren't too shabby either. The kitchen's tiramisu raises standards by sneaking a few cherries into the mix. Dulce de leche gilds pillowy orange-blossom beignets. Or a chocolate "tower", encircled by a tea-flavored custard sauce and caramel gelato, brings a lovely end to a lovely meal.

"How do you think they make money?" I asked Lars, our jazz expert. With two shows a night and without a regular cover charge—usually it's optional, obligatory only for big, out-of-town musicians—the small room (about ninety seats) can't make money by flipping tables several times.



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land of a thousand flavors

OUTDOOR SEATING DRIVES DINERS TO ZINGERMAN'S COMMUNITY IN DROVES



A long-standing feature of eating good food at Zingerman's ever since it opened for the first time in March of 1982 has been access to outdoor eating. Back then—in the year that both CDs (compact discs) and emoticons were introduced to Americans—Zingerman's Delicatessen opened its doors with space for six diners at a single outdoor picnic table on the southside of its building. Today, the Zingerman's Community offers nearly 600 outdoor seats. Dr. Ruby Pearl, who has a PhD in al-frescoology, is impressed. "They've created a whole network of au naturel dining that consumers can take advantage of. And it's not just a recreation to cur-



rent trends—they've been doing this for nearly 40 years."

On top of all that Zingerman's is hosting a range of outdoor events. An outdoor party planning expert who requested anonymity, reports that Zingerman's Cornman Farms and Zingerman's Roadhouse have both booked a range of outdoor weddings, parties and meetings for the next few months. As 19th century designer and actress Elsie de Wolfe, "Eating outdoors makes for good health and long life and good temper, everyone knows that."

UNDERCOVER TIMES REPORTERS SHARE THE BREAKOUT OF OUTDOOR DINING AT ZINGERMAN'S AS OF JULY 1, 2020

Zingerman's Delicatessen:	184 SEATS
Zingerman's Roadhouse:	152 SEATS
(including 90 new seats at picnic tables)	
Zingerman's Bakehouse:	54 SEATS
(for soups, sandwiches, salads, and pastry)	
Miss Kim:	20 SEATS
(ideal for eating local produce prepared using traditional Korean recipes)	
Zingerman's Coffee Co.:	22 SEATS
(for coffee drinking as well as artisan toast offerings)	

zingerman's food tours Offers a Hopeful Statement for the Future

Like everyone in the travel business worldwide, Zingerman's Food Tours was totally grounded by the pandemic. But looking to the future, both managing partner Kristie Brablec and many of her most loyal clients have taken the view that booking tours for 2021 now is a way to make a positive statement of hope for the future. "No one can be sure what will be going on next year, but we're hopeful we can make them happen in good form. Our tours help to support so many artisan food producers, family owned hotels and wineries. The impact of the pandemic on all of them has been huge. We've been working for months to come up with ways to make travel safe, but still tasty and educational." Last month the *Times* did report an uptick in food tour bookings for 2021. "It's a sign that hope levels are slowly going back up," said one industry expert.

To add incentive to intrigue, Brablec has made a special offer to *Times* readers: "For the first ten people to book a tour this month, we'll take ten percent off of everything folks put down as a deposit. So if they put down \$2000, we take off \$200 from the final price of the tour. If they put down the whole \$10,000 now, they'll save \$1000." In addition to building on the theme of hope for the future, for every booking, Zingerman's Food Tours will gift \$100 to We the People Growers Association in Ypsilanti to help build hope here in our local community.

Want to tap this special offer? *Times* readers are recommended to use the discount code **HOPE** at zingermansfoodtours.com.

ice cream cakes Top New Trend List

Instagram influencers across the country this summer have lately latched onto the loveliness of homemade ice cream cakes at Zingerman's Bakehouse. While American consumers are rediscovering this terrific treat, ice cream cakes are not new. They date back to the 1870s and were popular in Victorian times when they were created by combining biscuits, ice cream and fruit. The rapid growth of ice cream franchises in the U.S. in the mid-20th century led to an ice cream cake boom.

The Bakehouse ice cream cakes are already winning raves from customers, old and young. Surveys are showing six-year-olds love them. One expert also reported that adults are showing great interest as well. "It's something 'new' that they can remember from their youth. That sort of nostalgia is well known for providing a sense of comfort and calm, both of which are positive forces held in high regard in these turbulent times." The *Times* reports that the ice cream cakes are available at Zingerman's Bakehouse on Plaza Drive. They can also be ordered in advance for pick up at Zingerman's Delicatessen and Roadhouse. "This could be a big national trend in the making," said one expert.



Flavors? Zingerman's is offering three: **Strawberry Lemon, Vanilla with Pecan Praline, and S'mores Cake.**

whole Oak-Smoked chickens

Picking Up Winning Reviews

Word from Ann Arbor's westside is that Zingerman's Roadhouse has been quietly crafting some fantastic smoked chickens on its outdoor wood-fired pit. The chickens are making waves across town as they show up in picnic baskets, on dining room tables, and in carryout dinner bags. *Times* reporters wrangled a behind the scenes visit through the smoke to get the full story. The whole chickens arrive fresh from Amish farmers in Indiana. They're seasoned with kosher salt and a generous rubbing of freshly ground Tellicherry black pepper. The chickens are then cooked over smoldering oak logs for about four hours. "It's juicy like a high-quality rotisserie chicken but cooked over the wood smoke," said one regular customer. One chicken, *The Times* reports, can feed two adults, or more for those with more modest appetites. Leftovers? *The Times* has had great results testing smoked chicken salad, a smoked chicken club sandwich (insiders swear by avocado, bacon, mayo and tomato), and smoked chicken on pizza or pasta. The bones? They make great smoked chicken soup!



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Restaurant Reviews

And I noticed at least one or two tables saved each evening for band companions who didn't eat or drink much, sacrificing valuable real estate.

These factors, of course, help explain the high menu prices—you're enjoying free entertainment—but is Ann Arbor, a small city with big-time aspirations, up to supporting such a cool scene? I hope so, because now that I've broken through the jazz barrier—partially anyway, the discordant stuff still sounds, well, discordant to me—I'd like to continue enjoying Blue LLama's polish on both table and stage.

—Lee Lawrence

The music

The Blue LLama has revitalized the Ann Arbor jazz scene since opening a year ago. We used to have two full-time jazz clubs featuring both local and national artists, but the Bird of Paradise closed in 2004 and the Firefly Club in 2009. Jazz continues at smaller venues in Ann Arbor some nights of the week, like the Zal Gaz Grotto Club, the Old Town, and Kerrytown Concert House, to name a few (see Events).

While jazz musicians play in a variety of venues, from bars to concert stages, they prefer jazz clubs for their unique musical focus. The Blue LLama differs from its two Ann Arbor predecessors by offering fine dining, rather than snacks or bar staples like burgers. The Dirty Dog Jazz Café in Grosse Pointe Farms is the only Detroit-area establishment on a similar fine-dining-plus-jazz path—and has been so for a dozen years—which bodes well for the Blue LLama.

The Blue LLama draws on some of the same local talent as the Dirty Dog. One of them is drummer Sean Dobbins, who performed with his Modern Jazz Messengers on February 7, the night the Observer's food reviewer and I visited with our spouses.

Dobbins is an Ypsilanti-based musician who got his start under mentors like Morris Lawrence at Washtenaw Community College and trumpeter Louis Smith, who worked for years in the Ann Arbor Public Schools. Now in his mid-40s, Dobbins is a powerful drummer with lots of technique and musical taste who knows how to swing a band. He is also a great communicator and educator who invites the audience to share in his joy of playing with his somewhat younger Messengers. It is no surprise that Dobbins is in high demand on the metro Detroit jazz scene.

Dobbins is modeling his group on one of the classic modern jazz bands of the 1950s, drummer Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers. Blakey's group was a forerunner to the soul jazz movement of the 1960s with its emphasis on freewheeling improvisation backed by a solid beat. A long line of influential soloists developed their skills under Blakey's tutelage, and Dobbins aims to do the same for new generations of Detroit-area players. Dobbins' Modern Jazz Messengers have a wide repertoire of

jazz standards, with a substantial dose of Blakey originals, as well as songs written by the band members.

Thirty-year-old tenor saxophonist Marcus Elliot is one of those rapidly rising talents, and trumpeter Tim Blackmon is another. Pianist Corey Kendrick is a versatile player who combined sensitive chording behind the horns with fluent solos of his own. Bassist Ibrahim Jones provided solid drive and support for the group throughout the evening and worked beautifully in tandem with Dobbins' drumming.

The Blue LLama provides a near-perfect listening experience for audiences and musicians alike, thanks to a state-of-the-art sound system. The club used Dizzy's Club at Lincoln Center as the model, even bringing some of the sound engineers who worked on it from New York to Ann Arbor. Specially designed speakers and wall materials provide the same aural experience anywhere in the club.

Anyone enjoying the combination of modern jazz and delicious small-plate food has much to look forward to in downtown Ann Arbor. We are privileged to have this available to us, and I strongly recommend a visit to see how it fits your musical and culinary tastes.

—Lars Bjorn

The Blue LLama
314 S. Main
(734) 372-3200
www.bluellamaclub.com

Mon.–Thurs. 5–9 p.m., Fri. & Sat.
3–10 p.m., Sun. 3–9 p.m.

Plates from \$8–\$44

table talk

Afternoon Delight founder Tom Hackett is retiring. Hackett, who opened the popular café in 1978, remains an owner, but business partner Joanne Williams has taken over day-to-day operations.

A large part of Afternoon Delight's business is catering U-M events, but with the university shut and summer events canceled, "we had to regroup," Hackett says. "It would be like starting over." He says he told Williams, "I'm seventy-five. I don't think I want to do it under those conditions."

Williams, Afternoon Delight's co-owner for the past twenty years, took the challenge. She's expanded online ordering and reopened in-house dining (at 50 percent capacity).

Hackett will continue to advise Williams on the business side, and he won't vanish entirely. "I love walking in on a weekend and it's packed and I greet all of the customers who I've known for thirty years," he says. "I may come in on a weekend and say hello."

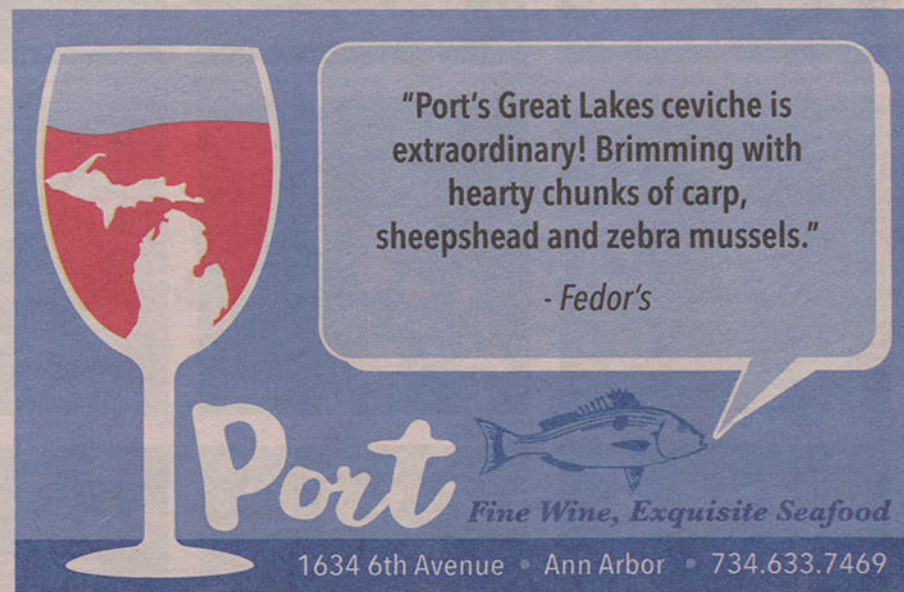
—Trilby MacDonald



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Marketplace Changes

Downtown Home & Garden Grows

*But still no
"cutie-pie stuff"*

Useful. Durable. Dependable. Those are the standards for everything we sell," says **Downtown Home & Garden** owner Kelly Vore. "You won't find cutie-pie stuff here."

You never could. The storefront at 210 S. Ashley was erected in the mid 1890s for Mann and Zeeb Elevator, a supplier of field seed for farmers and grain for poultry. The Hertler family purchased the business in 1906, renamed it Hertler Brothers, and held onto the property for sixty-nine years. The barn they built on the south side in 1908 was at first used as a livery stable.

In 1975, Mark Hodesh, a young townie who'd made a success of the Fleetwood Diner, bought the building and, step by thoughtful step, evolved it into a contemporary home and garden store.

In 2015, Hodesh sold the business to Vore, an employee. This February, Tom Garthwaite, who owns 208 S. Ashley next door, asked if she was interested in assuming Three Chairs' lease there.

Three Chairs owner Susan Monroe, whose main store is across Ashley in the former Schwaben Halle, had used the space to highlight her Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams lines. "I wasn't expecting them to move, but I had wished for more space," Vore says. "I said yes immediately."

Downtown Home remained open throughout the pandemic. "We're entirely a brick-and-mortar store. We don't have an online presence," Vore says. She had to lay off half her staff, but with phone and email orders, "we maintained our customers and kept our business going." By early June she had rehired six of the people she laid off and was hoping to bring back the rest.

She's aiming to open the new 2,500-square-foot showroom by July 4.



She says she'll use the added space "to expand our greenhouse business and stock more outdoor furniture, grills, and gardening tools and supplies."

This year, Vore ordered three times her usual inventory of vegetable plants and flowers, anticipating an upsurge in demand from people stuck at home. But her hard-pressed Michigan suppliers could give her only one-quarter of what she received in the past. "Seed potatoes were in as much demand as toilet paper," she says. "Many people had no idea how to grow them, but they knew they wanted to try. Everyone was intent on raising food, not tending hobby gardens. Other vegetable plants went off like rockets, too."

Downtown Home & Garden has become a clothing store, too, starting with Muck Boots, then expanding to hats, casual clothes, and outerwear. Vore will greatly expand that inventory but is especially excited about expanding the kitchen tools and accessories.

"One of our hottest lines is Polish Pottery," she says—the hand-painted multi-color stoneware developed in the Polish town of Bolesławiec "has a huge fan base." With the added space, "we'll become the largest source of the pottery outside of Hamtramck," she says with satisfaction. "I like to say we'll have more to love."

"We're forging ahead, putting one foot in front of the other," says Vore. "We strive to be highly adaptable, particularly now."

Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley, (734) 662-8122. Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Three Chairs at Twenty

*Susan Monroe's
superpower*

I may not remember their name, but I recognize their face, and I know what their living room looks like." This is the superpower of Susan Monroe,



Monroe opened her Three Chairs stores (the other is in Holland, Michigan) after designing Herman Miller showrooms in Manhattan and Hollywood.

owner of **Three Chairs Co.**, currently celebrating twenty years on Ashley St.

"It's a tough place for retail," Monroe says, "but somehow we're doing it."

Monroe, like all of her sales team, began as an interior designer. Experiences in product development and designing showrooms for Herman Miller stores in Manhattan and Hollywood compelled her to design a store of her own. Three Chairs opened in Holland, Michigan in 1996 and expanded to Ann Arbor four years later.

With the Herman Miller chairs in the front window, a passerby might take a glance and assume it's an office furniture firm. Three Chairs has outfitted a few downtown offices, but Monroe says most of their customers are individuals and families as well as other interior designers.

She thinks of her team as "problem solvers," often visiting a customer's house and identifying traffic flow before suggesting furniture to improve it. Suppliers include American Leather, Gus* (whose modern pieces can be covered in "vegan leather"), Lee Industries, Copeland Furniture, and Gat Creek.

"Kind of our whole drumbeat is quality furniture, good warranties, and you'll be back," Monroe says.

Three Chairs Co., 215 S. Ashley, (734) 665-2786. Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m. threechairs.com

March of the Sparrows

*The Kerrytown
market passes
from father
to son.*

Some good news emerged from a season of Covid-caused business disasters. On May 1, Bob Sparrow officially sold Sparrow Market to his

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Marketplace Changes

son Jordan, who has worked there more or less full-time since graduating from Lake Superior State in 2010. Jordan notes, though, "I've been working there since I was eleven."

In 1982 Bob opened a butcher counter in Kerrytown, Sparrow Meats, and, with a little nudging from landlord Joe O'Neal, he took over the adjacent produce store in 2004.

Bob, a youthful-looking fifty-nine, is still working for his son at Sparrow two days a week. "After working a hundred hours a week, I figured going down to no hours a week would be too big a withdrawal," he says. "Working two days a week is like being on another planet."

By "working," does he mean he's lending a hand for old times' sake or taking a small stipend? They both laugh: "Oh no," says Jordan. "I pay him what he's worth."

Sparrow Market is in the lucky slim minority of businesses that have weathered the pandemic with little disruption. "We've been rocking," says Bob. Sparrow is as close to a full-service grocery store as you get in central Ann Arbor, and its butcher counter is stocked with meat sourced from family farms, an increasingly scarce and sought-after resource in pandemic times.

Customers often notice that nearly all the people behind the meat counter are young women—unusual for the physically demanding meat-cutting trade. Bob says it happened organically: early on, some of his best employees happened to be women, and he continued to recruit new staff from their friendship pools. Over the years his meat cutters have skewed more and more female.

Jordan says they never changed the store hours during the pandemic, and he has no plans to change them now. The only real change he's had to make was to close down the sandwich counter (next to the cash register, it was a favorite grab-and-go for nearby workers but so unobtrusive a lot of people never noticed it). He doesn't know when he'll open it again.

Bob says his own approach through the years has always been "I'm not big on change. I just try to do more of what's working and less of what's not working."

One good thing that's kept working is the thirty-eight-year relationship with Joe O'Neal and now O'Neal's son Andrew. "Joe deserves credit for our success," Bob says. "He let me do whatever I wanted."

"We always did everything on a handshake. He didn't let us down, and we didn't let him down."

Sparrow Market, 407 N. Fifth Ave., (734) 761-8175. Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. kerrytown.com/sparrowmeats

Briefly noted

"It wasn't easy," says Mo Tehfe, but carryout and delivery kept **Burger 1**, Tehfe and cousin Ali Shami's new restaurant on Plymouth Rd., afloat during the shutdown. Now they've reopened the dining room

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¹Criminal Defense Attorney ²County Bar Assc. Past President ³Women Lawyers Assc. Past President

and “put extra measures in place” for safety, Tehfe says. He knows that even so, some customers may not be comfortable dining in, so they’ll continue to offer delivery and curbside pickup.

Tehfe, Shami, and two partners opened Burger 1 last November in Great Plains Burger Co.’s former space. “We saw the vacancy and decided to go for it,” Shami explained in March. “We loved the area because of the students” on North Campus.

Shami says Burger 1 fills a void left by Elevation Burger’s recent closings, because it offers halal food (the Islamic Center is just up the street). Burgers (beef, chicken, and veggie), wraps, fries, and milkshakes anchor the menu. He says their best-sellers are the Cajun-style Chapos burger and the Burger 1—topped with coleslaw, cheese sticks, turkey bacon, onion rings, American cheese, and special sauce.

Burger 1, 1771 Plymouth Rd., (734) 215-6660. Mon.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–11 p.m., Fri.–Sat. noon–midnight, Sun. noon–9 p.m. Facebook: Burger 1

• • •

Fans of the **Treasure Mart** have until Aug. 1 to make their final purchases. That’s when Elaine and Carl Johns plan to close the beloved antiques consignment store in Kerrytown.

The reason is her health. Elaine was diagnosed in 2018 with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Lou Gehrig’s disease.

Although she worked until the state locked down in March, she is now unable to come into the store, Carl says. Her illness also puts her at high risk if she contracts Covid-19.

“She can’t work anymore, and I need to be home” to help care for her, he says.

The Johnses put the store and real estate up for sale in February. Carl says they got an offer from a buyer who would have operated the shop and lived next door, in a home that is part of the deal. But when the pandemic hit, “they pulled out,” he says.

The property is still for sale, and Carl hopes another potential buyer will act quickly. “They need to really move,” he says.

In the meantime, they’re complying with the state’s recommendations for retail stores: limiting the number of customers in the store at one time, asking patrons to wear masks and observe social distancing, and installing transparent plastic panels at the cash registers.

Business was brisk on June 16, the first day it reopened after shutdown. “We’re going to try to sell what we can,” Carl says. “We’re also asking [consigners] if they want to come in and get their stuff.”

In a June message, the store announced that “starting July 6, remaining items will be marked down 50 per cent. Any items remaining after July 20th will be reduced at Treasure Mart’s discretion. After August 1st, any remaining items will be donated to the organization of Treasure Mart’s choice.”

The Johnses had hoped to hold a closing party that would allow customers to take a last look around and say goodbye, but the danger from the virus has scuttled that idea. “That would not be healthy for

[Elaine], and I don’t think she could take it” emotionally, Carl says.

Instead, he may ask customers to record voice messages and send them to the store, so he can play them for her. “That would be nice,” he says.

The Treasure Mart, 529 Detroit St., (734) 662-1363. Mon.–Sat. 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Closed Sun. treasuremart.com

• • •

For thirty-three years, **Espresso Royale** was a fixture in Ann Arbor and other Midwestern college towns.

Known for its handcrafted coffee drinks, roast coffees, and baked goods, the Ann Arbor-based company attracted generations of townies and students.

But the company closed all fourteen stores during the pandemic, and in June it announced that it would not reopen them. “We thank our wonderful baristas, café managers, bakers, and the entire Espresso Royale family for your excellent work,” said a company statement.

CFO Jonathan Martin says the company’s competitive advantage—prime locations on or near Big Ten campuses—became a liability when schools shut down and sent their students home. “The week-end of St. Patrick’s Day, we watched our register receipts drop like a stone. By the end of the week we had nothing.

“We had 227 employees who expected to be paid, and were paid. But we had rent payments [due] the next week.”

Martin says they “looked into getting additional capitalization, but in the summer the students are gone anyway. Would they return in September?”

They qualified for a PPP loan, but the spending deadline would have meant operating empty cafés. Instead, they decided to liquidate, turning the stores’ equipment over to their landlords in exchange for being released from their leases.

Though the Ann Arbor, East Lansing, and Madison stores appear to be gone for good, two locations in Champaign, Illinois, reopened for takeout in May, and former employees plan to resume roasting in Whitmore Lake as M36 Coffee Roasters.

The first local Espresso Royale café, located on State St., was cofounded by Marcus Goller and Charles Lawrence. Sportswriter Ian Casselberry, who now lives in Asheville, North Carolina, was a regular while a student at Eastern Michigan University.

“I spent so many hours there, mainly the State St. location, but others as well,” he says. “Reading, studying, meeting friends to say hello and chat, dates, interviews, conversations after movies or readings at Borders, or just killing time.”

Allen Leibowitz, the former managing partner of Zingerman’s Coffee Company, now living near Houston, says Espresso Royale was a leader in the Ann Arbor coffee scene.

“They were probably the first shop in Ann Arbor to have single-outhing pour-overs from whole bean that you could buy fresh from a display case,” he recalls. “They were ahead of the curve.” ■

Got a retail or restaurant change? Email marketplace@aaobserver.com.

Thanks for the Memories!



Treasure Mart

Established 1960

Thanks to all of the shoppers and consigners who have shown us so much support for the past 60 years. We know so many of you on a first name basis and you became our friends and family.

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As this Apartment is available for immediate occupancy, prospective Tenants should telephone **Heydon Washington Street Properties** leaving their message at **(734) 747-7070** to arrange for an appointment to view this distinctive residence. The Landlord will return their phone call to establish a mutually convenient time to visit and learn Tenants’ bona fides and rental history. Twenty-seven hundred fifty dollars monthly with C.P.I. annual adjustments. **Lease Term negotiable, but two-year initial Lease is preferred.**



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July Events

EVENT REVIEWS

43 Nevertheless Persists

The film festival moves online for its second year.

Maggie McMillin

44 Cornucopia

The Ann Arbor Monster Record and CD Show

James M. Manheim

FILMS

45 Film Screenings

Ella Bourland

GALLERIES

47 Exhibits this month

Maggie McMillin

KIDS CALENDAR

49 Events for kids 12 and under

Ella Bourland & Maggie McMillin

TIPS FOR READING

Recurrent events are listed only on the date of their 1st occurrence, except for performing arts, which are always listed on each day they occur. Thus, the first week of each month will always contain information about events throughout the month.

Unless otherwise noted, all phone numbers have area code (734).

Online event listings include a URL. This link either directs you to (1) a preregistration page or (2) the online location itself. For security reasons, preregistration may be required in order to limit the number of persons in attendance.

★ Denotes a free event

Note: This month's calendar includes both online and in-person events. Due to the **Covid-19 pandemic**, all listed in-person events are contingent upon the venue's opening up. Published events reflect plans as of press day (19 June). The most up-to-date calendar of events is available at AnnArborObserver.com

Whether these venues are open or not, we strongly recommend that you **stay home** until the public health crisis has abated.

We want to know about your event!

Please send us your press release by the **10th day of the preceding month**.

- **Email:** events@aaobserver.com
- **Phone:** 769-3175
- **Mail:** Calendar Editors, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
- **Fax:** 769-3375
- **After-hours drop box:** left side of the Observer's front door facing Winewood

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor entertainment and other leisure events, but we also list activities elsewhere in Washtenaw County deemed of interest to our readers. Please submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the 10th might not be included in the print calendar but will be added to our online calendar at AnnArborObserver.com.

Due to space limitations, **many listings, especially for weekday daytime and recurrent events, appear only in the online calendar**. This is not only an expanded version of the print calendar but is also continually updated and searchable. It includes listings, submitted by the public, of classes, religious services, political activities, and other types of events not suitable for print.

1 WEDNESDAY

★**"Cobblestone Farm Weeding":** Ann Arbor Garden Club. All invited to join club members in weeding the Cobblestone Farm herb garden. 10 a.m.-noon, Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. Free. 761-8281.

★**"Noontime Exercise:"** U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program. Every Mon., Wed., & Fri. Basic prerecorded movements for all ages. No equipment necessary. Tai Chi (noon-12:30 p.m.) and "Walking off the Pounds," walking in place (12:30-1 p.m.). Various times, call 998-9353 for meeting URL. Free.

★**"Read Aloud Together Virtually":** U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Every Wed. All invited to join a reading of Mark Twain's classic 1883 memoir *Life on the Mississippi*. Led by local writer Sharon Quiroz. 1-2:30 p.m., bit.ly/readtwainloud. Free. 998-9351.

★**"Norma Jeane Baker of Troy":** Literati Bookstore Feminist Book Club. July 1 & 15. All invited to an online discussion of celebrated Canadian poet (and former U-M classics professor) Anne Carson's new book-length poem, which revisits the stories of Marilyn Monroe and Helen of Troy. Today's discussion focuses on pages 1-35. 5:30 p.m., email YoungEun@LiteratiBookstore.com for meeting URL. Free. 585-5567.

★**Kerrytown Crafters.** Every Wed. Crocheters, knitters, spinners, weavers, felters, sewers, and other crafters invited to work on their projects. Questions welcome, help available. 7 p.m. or so, join [Facebook.com/groups/KTCrafters](https://www.facebook.com/groups/KTCrafters) for updates on virtual or in-person meeting location. Free. 926-8863.

2 THURSDAY

★**Gemini Livestream Concert.** Every weekday, except Wed. Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits of the nationally renowned local acoustic duo Gemini, along with San's folk musician daughter Emily, present short livestream concerts on their Facebook page. The schedule (subject to change): children's shows by San & Emily (Mon.) and Laz (Thurs.) and grown-ups' shows by Laz (Tues.) and San & Emily (Fri.). 5 p.m., [Facebook.com/GeminiChildrensMusic](https://www.facebook.com/GeminiChildrensMusic). Free, but donations for Food Gatherers or

a charity of your choice accepted during each performance.

★**"Summer Sippin': A Virtual Guided Tasting":** Zingerman's Delicatessen. Local Edelbrau Brewery owner Teo Watson-Ahlbrandt and Zingerman's cheese expert Trevor Murray discuss craft beers paired with Zingerman's snacks. 6-7 p.m., preregister at bit.ly/summersipping for meeting URL. \$40, includes 2-person tasting samples available for pick up; local delivery of samples, \$5.99 extra. 663-3354.

★**Virtual Comhaltas.** Every Thurs. All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. 7 p.m., email Contact@DetroitIrishMusic.org for meeting URL. Free. [Facebook.com/DetroitIMA](https://www.facebook.com/DetroitIMA)

★**German Conversation.** Every Thurs. All German speakers, native or non-native, invited for conversation with the long-running group "the Stammtisch." Note: Face masks required. 8-10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 678-1017.

★**Dick Siegel Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** This veteran local singer-songwriter is an immensely gifted and versatile composer whose songs offer all sorts of immediate musical and lyrical pleasures, both serious and comic, as well as a resonant staying power. His live repertoire features material from his nationally acclaimed 2002 CD *A Little Pain Never Hurts*, early hits like "Angelo's" and "When the Sumac Is on Fire"—one of the best songs about Michigan ever written—and new songs. 8 p.m., see TheArk.org/Shows-Events/Calendar for livestream. Free. 761-1451.

4 SATURDAY

★**"Ann Arbor Sports Commission Firecracker 5k":** Epic Races. Every day through July 31. All invited to run or walk a 5k or mile-long "fun run" on their own and post pictures to [Facebook.com/EpicRacesEvents](https://www.facebook.com/EpicRacesEvents). Race can be completed at any time and in any location. Price includes a T-shirt, medal, and neck warmer. All day. [Facebook.com/EpicRacesEvents](https://www.facebook.com/EpicRacesEvents). \$27-\$37 in advance only at [EpicRacesEvents.com](https://www.facebook.com/EpicRacesEvents). Info@EpicRaces.com, 585-7101.

★**Lillie Parkrun.** Every Sat. All invited to join a timed 5k run/walk. 8 a.m., Lillie Park, 4365 Platt Rd. Free; first-timers

requested to preregister at ParkRun.us/Lillie.

★**Annual 4th of July Chicken BBQ:** Chelsea American Legion Post #31. With BBQ chicken, coleslaw, potato chips, baked beans, and a roll. To-go only. Beverages & desserts available. A benefit for the American Legion. 11 a.m. until sold out (usually around 4 p.m., sometimes sooner), American Legion, 1700 Ridge Rd., off Cavanaugh Lake Rd. west from Kalmbach Rd. north of I-94 exit 156, Chelsea. \$10. 475-1964.

★**"Ann Arbor Group Runs":** Running Fit. Every Mon. & Sat. Runners of all abilities invited to join a 3-8 mile run along varying routes from different Running Fit locations. Also, a speed-training session (every Tues. 6:30 p.m., 5700 Jackson Rd.). Snacks. Rain or shine. 6:30 p.m. (Mon.), 123 E. Liberty & 8 a.m. (Sat.), 5700 Jackson Rd. Free. 769-5016 (Mon.), 929-9022 (Tues. & Sat.).

★**"Virtual 4th of July Parade":** Ann Arbor Jaycees. Livestream of family-friendly videos and photos submitted by local residents in celebration of the 4th. 10 a.m., [Facebook.com/a2jaycees](https://www.facebook.com/a2jaycees). Free. info@a2jaycees.org

★**"Ypsilanti 4th of July Virtual Parade."** Livestream flag ceremony followed by a virtual "parade," a compilation of videos submitted by previous parade participants of songs, dances, speeches, and other performances. Followed by hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and beverages at the Saline American Legion (320 W. Michigan Ave.). 11 a.m., [Facebook.com/YpsiParade](https://www.facebook.com/YpsiParade). Free. ypsi4thparade@gmail.com

5 SUNDAY

★**H.A.C. Ultimate.** Every Sun. All invited to a relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Note: Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. 11:15 a.m., Fuller Park, just west of the pool & parking lot (or occasionally across the street). Free. 846-9418, hac-UltimateList@GoogleGroups.com

★**"Live @ The 415":** Kerrytown Concert House. Every Sun. Livestream performance of jazz, cabaret, or classical music by a KCH favorite TBA. Previous performers include Ann Arbor jazz bassist Paul Keller, U-M music professor and jazz composer-pianist Ellen Rowe, and local boogie-woogie &



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BLACK LIVES MATTER

New and ongoing projects from
the Ann Arbor District Library intended to
address anti-Black racism in our community,
and support those who wish to learn more.

Black Lives Matter Discussion Series

Call For Stories: Anti-Black Racism

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Living Oral History Project

AADL.org/blacklivesmatter

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blues pianist Mark "Mr. B" Braun. 4:15 p.m., KerrytownConcertHouse.com/Live-At-The-415. Free, donations accepted. KerrytownConcertHouse.com

★**Ann Arbor Morris.** All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance thought to be descended from the 15th-century Spanish *moresca*. Wear athletic shoes. 6–8 p.m., *Concourse Hall*, 4531 Concourse. Free. To confirm, email a2morris@umich.edu or check *MeetUp.com*. 717–1569.

6 MONDAY

★**Freddy & Francine Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** This duo, actually named Lee Ferris and Bianca Caruso, recently re-formed and relocated from L.A. to Nashville. "The minute you think one of our songs is an Americana song, it can turn into a retro pop song," they say. The duo made its local debut at the Ark's Art Fair Stage in 2019. 8 p.m., see TheArk.org/Shows-Events/Calendar for livestream. Free. 761–1451.

7 TUESDAY

★**"Virtual Meditation Drop-In": U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** Every Tues. Local insight mindful meditation instructor **Bilha Birman Rivlin** leads an informal session for all ages & experience levels. 10 a.m., preregister at bit.ly/virtualmeditation2 or call 998–9353 for meeting URL. Free.

★**"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch.** All knitters invited to work on their projects and swap tips. 6–9 p.m., for meeting location call or preregister at MeetUp.com/Ann-Arbor-StitchNBitch. \$2 monthly dues. 945–3035.

★**"Virtual Death Café": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** All invited to join a frank conversation about death, hosted by Interfaith Center Minister Annie Kopko. 6:30 p.m., see InterfaithSpirit.org for meeting URL. Free, but donations appreciated. 327–0270.

★**"Virtual Sufi Chanting, Movement, and Meditations": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** Every Tues. Local Imam Kamau Ayubbi leads a program of chanting and meditation based on traditions of Sufi masters. 6:30 p.m., see InterfaithSpirit.org for meeting URL. Free, but donations appreciated. 327–0270.

Eastside Weekly Euchre Tournament. Every Tues. Open to ages 18 & over. No partner needed. Cash prizes for 1st–3rd places. 7 p.m., *Banfield's Bar & Grill*, 3140 Packard. \$5. Kari.Thurman@gmail.com

★**Virtual Songwriters Open Mic: Oz's Music Environment.** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. 7:30–9:30 p.m., email JimNovakMusic@gmail.com for meeting URL. Free. 662–8283.

★**German Conversation.** Every Tues. All German speakers, native or non-native, invited for conversation with the long-running group German Speakers Round Table. Note: Face masks required. 8–10 p.m., *Grizzly Peak Brewing Company*, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453–2394.



WAGING CHANGE

Nevertheless Persists

The film festival moves online for its second year.

"You want to feel good about yourself. The industry doesn't make you feel good about yourself, so I became my own advocate." So says Nataka Rhodes, a Chicago waitress-turned-activist featured in Abby Ginzberg's 2019 documentary *Waging Change*, which plays at this year's Nevertheless Film Festival.

Rhodes' description of her own journey into activism echoes that of Nevertheless founder Meredith Finch. After working for several film festivals, Finch started Nevertheless because she wanted to see more women represented behind the camera. Now in its second year, the festival features films where women make up at least half of the leadership team (directors, writers, composers, and other off-screen creatives). Finch describes them as movies that are "made by women, for everyone."

Waging Change follows the fight to raise the minimum wage for tipped workers, who earn as little as \$2.13 an hour (\$3.67 in Michigan). Shot before Covid-19 hit the U.S., the documentary's insistence on the importance of a fair wage is more relevant than ever. Ginzberg's reminder that "10 percent of the entire U.S. workforce" is employed in restaurants is a grim statistic in light of Covid job losses.

This film, the first of Nevertheless' lineup that I watched, was an immediate reminder of the importance of women's stories in shaping a full narrative. Reflecting the gender makeup of the service industry, many of the film's subjects are women. They're plagued by sexual harassment, but their reliance on tips makes it hard to fight back against

rude customers—another consequence of America's wage inequality.

But Nevertheless isn't a festival about women's issues, per se, nor is it meant only for an audience of women. When I asked Finch what defines the program if not an orientation toward woman-centered topics, she put it simply: "they're really good movies that happen to be directed by women."

Asking For It is an immaculately detailed dark comedy about a young writer who is targeted by an online stalker. With fast-paced, blink-and-you-miss-it humor, directors Becky Scott and Amanda Lundquist explore the insidious ways in which faux feminism, celebrity obsession, and male entitlement coexist in our culture. As the film follows protagonist Jenny through encounters with her narcissistic boss, an apathetic policeman, and a creepy suitor, it examines the dangers of existing in the public eye and perfectly captures the hectic anxiety of millennial life.

This year's program includes twenty-six films from eight countries; twelve directors are women of color and eleven are first-time filmmakers. They are important, hilarious, mind-opening, and heart-wrenching, and they break out of the Hollywood mold, where (as of 2019) 85 percent of top films are still directed by men. In *Waging Change* multiple interviewees remind us that, as consumers, we have the power to support businesses and organizations whose practices are worthy of our respect. Nevertheless has certainly earned mine.

Nevertheless Film Festival is available online July 9–12. Purchase tickets and see the full schedule at nevertheless2020.eventive.org.

—Maggie McMillin

8 WEDNESDAY

★**"Read Aloud Together Virtually":** U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Every Wed. All invited to join a reading of Mark Twain's classic 1883 memoir *Life on the Mississippi*. Led by local writer Sharon Quiroz. 1–2:30 p.m., bit.ly/readtwainloud. Free. 998–9351.

★**Kerrytown Crafters.** Every Wed. All crocheters, knitters, spinners, weavers, felters, sewers, and other crafters invited to work on their projects. Questions welcome, help available. 7 p.m. or so, join Facebook.com/groups/KTCrafters for updates on virtual or in-person meeting location. Free. 926–8863.

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word over Zoom":** Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. All invited to read and discuss poetry or short fiction. Have your original work ready to share, if you wish. 7 p.m., email cwPoetryCircle@gmail.com for meeting URL. Free.

★**"Sustainability, Equity, & Climate Change Virtual Book Club":** City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability. All invited to join a discussion of Ijeoma Oluo's 2018 book *So You Want To Talk About Race*. It's a guide for honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life. 8–9 p.m., preregister at bit.ly/bookdiscussion1 for meeting URL. Free. a2zero.org/Events

9 THURSDAY

★**"Virtual Singing for Comfort":** Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to join a sing-along of soothing songs that are easy to learn. No experience necessary. 7 p.m., see InterfaithSpirit.org for meeting URL. Free, but donations appreciated. 327–0270.

★**Virtual Comhaltas.** Every Thurs. All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. 7 p.m., email Contact@DetroitIrishMusic.org for meeting URL. Free. Facebook.com/DetroitIMA

★**German Conversation.** Every Thurs. All German speakers, native or non-native, invited for conversation with the long-running group "the Stammtisch." Note: Face masks required. 8–10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 678–1017.

10 FRIDAY

★**"Night Paddle":** Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All invited to paddle around Gallup Pond under the moon to observe birds and other animals as they prepare for their nocturnal lives. Bring a flashlight, if you wish. Canoes, kayaks, and equipment provided. 8:30–10:30 p.m., meet at Gallup Park Canoe Livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. \$15 per 1-person kayak; \$20 per 2-person kayak/canoe. 769–6240.

★**"Clements Bookworm Online Event":** U-M Clements Library. Every Fri. except July 3. Panelists and featured guests discuss history topics in this weekly webinar. Upcoming topics TBA at clements.umich.edu/bookworm. 10 a.m., preregistration required at myumi.ch/gjgZR for meeting URL. Free. 649–3370.

★**"Girl, Woman, Other":** At Home with Literati Book Club. July 10 & 24. All invited to an online discussion of British novelist Bernardine Evaristo's 2019 book, which follows the lives of 12 characters (mostly black women) as they negotiate the world. Today's discussion focuses on pages 150–306. 5:30 p.m., email YoungEun@LiteratiBookstore.com for meeting URL. Free. 585–5567.

★**Eric Swalwell and Debbie Dingell:** At Home with Literati. California congressman Eric Swalwell discusses his brand-new book *Endgame: Inside the Impeachment of Donald J. Trump*,

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*The Ann Arbor Monster
Record and CD Show*

"I see quite a few people my age," says one dealer, not even close to middle age. "And I saw a girl about five with, must have been her grandpa. He was passing her records and saying, 'You want to see this?'"

You might think the Ann Arbor Monster Record and CD Show is the province of male boomers, and I did see a number from my cohort. But really all kinds of people turn out. The show has been around, with one hiatus and a few moves, since the early 1980s, and it's hardly changed at all since I moved here with my record collection in 1988. It's an institution, and the young people here are, if anything, even more fascinated by physical artifacts of music than we were when I was a teen.

The organizers claim it's the largest record show in Michigan, and it fills one of the big conjoined basement meeting rooms at Weber's Inn. There are about 60 eight-foot tables, with slightly fewer dealers because some rent multiple spaces. Prices run from pocket change to four figures, and everybody has a dollar box to attract those for whom there's too much month at the end of the money. Bargains may be hard to find,

though—the dealers are an elite group coming from multiple states, and they know their stuff.

Nearly every genre is available (though I haven't seen much classical music), but the show is of this place: there's lots of old Detroit R&B and soul and rock. I talked myself out of a high-dollar copy of John Lee Hooker's 1966 LP *It Serve You Right to Suffer* in favor of a stack of country vinyl, none of it online anywhere. Many dealers have high-end material like special vinyl pressings, and if you're concerned about the wholesale degradation of audio brought about by the infinite reproduction of music online, you'll find a last redoubt of audiophile products here.

The Ann Arbor Monster Record and CD Show happens four times a year. Doors open at 10 and supposedly close at 4, but many dealers will pack up well before then. You can come as early as 8 and pay an early bird fee—recommended if you're looking for rarities, for about a thousand people come through over the course of the day, and by the end things are pretty well picked over.

The next Monster Record and CD Show is July 12 at Weber's Inn. The following one is on October 18, same location. To confirm that the show is on, contact organizer Rod Branham through RerunRecords.com or visit Facebook. [com/AnnArborRecordShow](https://www.facebook.com/AnnArborRecordShow).

—James M. Manheim

★ Denotes a free event

which describes Swalwell's path to office and his experience of the president's impeachment. He is joined in conversation by Michigan congresswoman Debbie Dingell. 7 p.m., preregistration required at LiteratiBookstore.com for meeting URL. Free. 585-5567.

★Frontier Ruckus Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series. Popular experimental Americana-flavored folk-rock ensemble from Lake Orion. "Frontman Matthew Milia's vocals convey a dreamy, twangy quality, like someone who's wandering aimlessly through the woods at night," says a *Cleveland Scene* review. "He recalls Michael Stipe in his vivid word-play and oblique imagery." The group has

a new album, *Live in Lake Orion*. 8 p.m., see TheArk.org/Shows-Events/Calendar for livestream. Free. 761-1451.

II SATURDAY

★Lillie Parkrun. Every Sat. All invited to join a timed 5k run/walk. 8 a.m., Lillie Park, 4365 Platt Rd. Free; first-timers requested to preregister at ParkRun.us/Lillie. ParkRun.us.

★"Meet the Candidates!": Washtenaw County Democratic Party Online Edition. Candidates panel with Debbie Dingell & Solomon Rajput, the candidates in the Democratic primary for the congressional seat that includes Ann Arbor. Followed at 11:10 by a panel with Washtenaw County Commissioner candidates Justin Hodges, Denise Kirchoff, Karen Lovejoy

Burnout Society Film Club. Double feature with **trivia** (and prizes) during intermission. Facebook: [com/8ballMovieNight](https://www.facebook.com/8ballMovieNight). FREE. The Blind Pig, 208 S. First St. 7:30 p.m.–midnight. Note: Face masks required.

July 8: "Malibu High" (Irvin Berwick, 1979). Gritty comedy about a high school delinquent who starts using her body to get what she wants, and **"Beyond the Valley of Dolls"** (Russ Meyer, 1970). A new all-girl band gets caught up in the pills & sex of Hollywood in this camp classic.

Ann Arbor Jewish Film Festival. Online at Film.jccAnnArbor.org. Annual festival of documentary and feature films on Jewish themes. Check Film.jccAnnArbor.org for program additions. \$12 per film rental.

"Crescendo" (Dror Zahavi, 2019). Drama about a celebrated conductor who creates an Israeli-Palestinian youth orchestra. German, subtitles.

"Abe" (Fernando Grostein Andrade, 2020). Drama about a young boy who cooks to unite his half Israeli, half Palestinian family. Portuguese, Arabic, English; subtitles.

"Picture of His Life" (Dani Menkin and Yonatan Nir, 2019). Documentary about renowned wildlife photographer Amos Nachoum, who dreams of photographing a polar bear underwater.

Nevertheless Film Festival. See review, p. 43. Online at NeverthelessFilmFestival.com. Four days of films and Q&A sessions with women filmmakers, producers, editors, screenwriters, and cinematographers. \$6.95 per feature film or short film package (includes respective filmmaker Q&A); \$29 for an all-access pass. All films available to stream at any time, July 9–12, but live Q&A sessions can be viewed only at specific times (see below).

Feature Films: "Asking For It" (Amanda Lundquist & Becky Scott, 2019). A put-upon journalist resorts to vigilante justice when the law fails to protect her from an anonymous Internet stalker. Also, on July 11 at 3 p.m., **Q&A with filmmakers.** Note: A portion of ticket sales go to the ACLU of Michigan.

"Easy Land" (Sanja Zivkovic, 2019). Recent immigrants to Canada, a Serbian mother and daughter must find a balance between what they have chosen for the future and what they have left behind. Also, on July 11 at noon, **Q&A with filmmakers.** Note: A portion of ticket sales go to nonprofit organization Welcoming Michigan.

"Waging Change" (Abby Ginzberg, 2019). Documentary exploring the intersection of the effort to end the \$2.13 federal minimum wage for tipped restaurant servers and bartenders and the #MeToo movement's effort to end sexual harassment. Also, on July 12 at 3 p.m., **Q&A with filmmakers.** Note: A por-

tion of ticket sales go to One Fair Wage Michigan.

"First Vote" (Yi Chen, 2019). Documentary following the political participation of 4 Chinese Americans with opposing views mobilizing from 2016 to the 2018 midterm elections in North Carolina and Ohio. Also, on July 10 at 8 p.m., **Q&A with filmmakers.** Note: A portion of ticket sales go to APIA Vote Michigan.

"Hungry to Learn" (Geeta Gandbhir, 2019). Documentary about 4 American college students threatened by food insecurity and how they are addressing the social problems that lead to hunger. Also, on July 12 at noon, **Q&A with filmmakers.** Note: A portion of ticket sales go to the Maize & Blue Cupboard.

"Personhood" (Jo Ardinger, 2019). Documentary that reframes the abortion debate to encompass the growing body of laws that police pregnant women, especially women of color and low-income women. Also, on July 11 at 5 p.m., **Q&A with filmmakers.** Note: A portion of ticket sales go to Planned Parenthood of Michigan.

Narrative Short Films; on July 12 at 5 p.m., **Q&A with narrative shorts filmmakers.** Note: A portion of ticket sales go to The Future of Film is Female.

"Beef" (Ingrid Santos, 2019). A student questions the usefulness of the school system and the subject they're studying in front of her classmates. Spanish, subtitles.

"Pick" (Alicia K. Harris, 2019). A young girl faces unexpected consequences when she wears her Afro to school on picture day.

"Odd Bird" (Katy Dore, 2019). A young man shares the truth about his sexuality with his conservative ranch family.

"Day One" (Arielle Goldman, 2019). Funny, poignant take on a woman preparing for her day while on her period.

"He's the One" (Jessie Kahnweiler, 2020). Dark comedy about falling in love with the one person you're supposed to hate.

"So What If The Goats Die" (Sofia Alaoui, 2019). After a snow storm, a shepherd on a remote mountain makes his way to the nearest village only to find it bereft of humans. Berber, subtitles.

Documentary Short Films; on July 11 at 10 p.m., **Q&A with documentary shorts filmmakers.** Note: A portion of ticket sales go to Brown Girls Doc Mafia.

"Abortion Helpline, This is Lisa" (Barbara Attie, Janet Goldwater, and Mike Attie, 2019). Documentary about abortion helpline counselors.

"The Bony Lady (La Flaca)" (Adriana Barbosa and Thiago Zanato, 2018). Documentary about Arely Vazquez, a New York-based Mexican transgender woman, during her yearly celebration of the anniversary of the Holy Death cult. Spanish, subtitles.

"Mizuko (Water Child)" (Kira Dane and Katelyn Rebelo, 2018). Inspired by a Bud-

hist ritual to grieve abortions, a Japanese American woman reevaluates what it means to end her own pregnancy.

"Call Center Blues" (Geeta Gandbhir, 2020). A lyrical portrait of an unlikely community of U.S. deportees and their loved ones struggling to rebuild their lives in Tijuana.

"Take Care" Short Films; on July 10 at 10 p.m., **Q&A with "Take Care" shorts filmmakers.** Note: A portion of ticket sales go to Made in Her Image.

"Flesh (Carne)" (Camila Kater, 2019). Through animation and personal stories, 5 women share experiences about their relationships with their bodies. Portuguese, subtitles.

"Warpaint for the Teenage Soul" (Rebecca Woolf, 2019). Two teenage girls form an unlikely bond in a school bathroom when they're supposed to be in class.

"Dorris 85" (Grace Philips, 2019). An elderly woman tries to maintain composure and a sense of normalcy while celebrating her birthday with her husband, who has Alzheimer's.

"Día de la Madre" (Ashley Brandon and Dennis Höhne, 2020). A group of young mariachis travel from home to home, surprising their mothers with a home-spun serenade. Spanish, subtitles.

"Princess Rita" (Blair Waters, 2019). A lonely insurance adjuster becomes consumed by a desire to meet his Internet girlfriend, who claims to be a princess from a faraway country.

"The Tampon" (Erica Ortiz, 2020). Following a night of heavy drinking, an art student comes face to face with the complexities of consent.

"Late Night" Short Films; on July 11 at 8 p.m., **Q&A with Late Night shorts filmmakers.** Note: a portion of ticket sales go to U-M Sisters in Cinema.

"Power Out" (Lauren Keating, 2020). Part supernatural thriller, part coming-of-age story about a recently relocated high school senior grappling with buried family trauma during a severe storm.

"Blocks" (Bridget Moloney, 2020). Existential comedy about a mother of 2 who begins to vomit toy blocks.

"Knock, Knock, Knock (똑, 똑, 똑)" (Arom Choi, 2018). A woman living in a cramped, humid room in Seoul struggles to find meaning in life. Korean, subtitles.

"Stucco" (Janina Gavankar and Russo Schelling, 2019). Psychological horror about an agoraphobic woman who finds a suspicious, hollow wall in her house.

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Roe, and Michael White. Q&A to follow each panel. 10:30 a.m.-noon, bit.ly/candidatespanel. Free. 883-8250.

“Living Room Live! Online”: Ann Arbor Storytellers’ Guild. Storytelling by Antonio Rocha, a Brazilian native now living in Maine whose performances blend folktales, mime, and social justice stories based on his experiences as an immigrant. Host is Chelsea-based fiction writer & playwright Steve Daut. 7-8 p.m., preregister at tinyurl.com/LR-Live2U for livestream. Pay what you can (\$10 or more suggested donation). Mail@SteveDaut.com

12 SUNDAY

“Ann Arbor Monster Record & CD Collector’s Show”: Rerun Records. See review, p. 44. Popular fair with over 40 dealers selling rare and collectible used records and CDs, as well as hard-to-find new releases. Includes every popular music genre, along with rock music books, rock videos, posters, and assorted popular culture memorabilia. Food and beverages for sale. Patrons may bring in a small number of records to sell. Note: Face masks required. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Weber’s Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. \$3 admission (children age 10 & under, free). For information or to reserve a dealer table, contact Rod Branham at 604-2540.

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Live-At-The-415. Free, donations accepted. KerrytownConcertHouse.com

★**Ann Arbor Morris.** All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance thought to be descended from the 15th-century Spanish *moresca*. Wear athletic shoes. 6-8 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse. Free. To confirm, email a2morris@umich.edu or check MeetUp.com. 717-1569.

★**“Virtual Jams”:** Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Jam. July 12, 19, & 26. Musicians of all ability levels and ages invited to sing and play anything from classic rock, Motown, and blues to bluegrass, folk, and country. All acoustic instruments (strings, horns, and woodwinds) welcome. Led by veteran local musicians Bill Connors and Phil McMillion. 7-9 p.m., preregister at MeetUp.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam for meeting URL. 973-7791.

★**Annie & Rod Capps Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** This veteran wife-and-husband folk-rock duo has, they say, been “musically completing each other’s sentences” since 1982. Vocalist and songwriter Annie Capps weaves various roots traditions into a sparse mix. They have a new album, *When They Fall*. 7:30 p.m., see TheArk.org/Shows-Events/Calendar for livestream. Free. 761-1451.

All Them Witches: The Blind Pig. Veteran Nashville hard-rock quartet whose music mixes swamp blues, sludge metal, space-rock, and neo-psychedelic flavors. Opener: **Blackwater Holylight**, a Portland (OR) all-female psychedelic doom rock quintet. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. Ashley. Tickets \$15 in advance at BlindPigMusic.com/ Calendar & at the door. 996-8555.

13 MONDAY

★**Virtual Scandinavian Music Jam.** Bruce Sagan and Brad Battey lead an acoustic jam session devoted to traditional music from Sweden and Norway. All instruments welcome, no experience playing Scandinavian music necessary. 7:30-9:30 p.m., email bsagan@msu.edu for meeting URL. Free. (908) 721-2599.

14 TUESDAY

★**“Virtual Meditation Drop-In”:** U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program. Every Tues. Local insight mindful meditation



Annie & Rod Capps livestream at TheArk.org on July 12.

JENNIFER PROUTY

galleries

Online exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Women Artists, bit.ly/aawartists. Juried exhibit of work in various media by AAWA members.

U-M Clements Library, bit.ly/clements-lib. Multiple online exhibits about early American history, featuring documents from the Clements collection.

U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, bit.ly/kelsey-library. Digitized versions of past exhibits, plus the current exhibit *Randal Stegmeyer: Exposing the Past*, a collection of Stegmeyer's photos of Kelsey Museum artifacts.

U-M Libraries, lib.umich.edu/online-exhibits. Digitized materials from library collections, featuring everything from children's books to 19th-century fashion illustrations.

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, bit.ly/bonsai2020. *Bonsai in Bloom*.

Photos of Matthaei's blooming Satsuki azalea bonsai trees and a video tour of this year's collection.

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, bit.ly/virtualbard. *The Virtual Bard: Shakespeare in the Arb Online*. Photos and videos of Shakespeare in the Arb productions through the years, a reading by this year's cast, and more.

U-M Museum of Art (UMMA), umma.umich.edu. Digitized materials from UMMA's collection. Also, "Medicine @ the Museum," an online exhibit of artwork from UMMA's collection that speaks to Covid-19 and the history of medicine.

WSG Gallery, wsg-art.com. *Earth and Polar Work* (Jul. 7–Aug. 17). Abstract cold wax and oil paintings by WSG member Lynda Cole, inspired by Antarctic landscapes and glacier loss.

instructor **Bilha Birman Rivlin** leads an informal session for all ages & experience levels. 10 a.m., preregister at bit.ly/virtualmeditation2 or call 998-9353 for meeting URL. Free.

★**"Virtual Sufi Chanting, Movement, and Meditations": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth**. Every Tues. Local Imam Kamau Ayubbi leads a program of chanting and meditation based on traditions of Sufi masters. 6:30 p.m., see *InterfaithSpirit.org* for meeting URL. Free, but donations appreciated. 327-0270.

★**Virtual Playwriting Club: The Brass Tacks Ensemble**. This local troupe leads writing exercises focused on one-act & full-length plays. 6:30 p.m., email *TheBrassTacksEnsemble@gmail.com* by 5 p.m. the day of the event for meeting URL. Free. *Facebook.com/TheBrassTacksEnsemble*

★**Legna Rodríguez Iglesias & Megan McDowell: At Home with Literati**. Cuban-born, Miami-based playwright and novelist **Legna Rodríguez Iglesias** discusses her brand-new novel *My Favorite Girlfriend was a French Bulldog*, which explores the political and sexual identity of a Cuban woman living in America. She is joined by her translator, Megan McDowell. 7 p.m., preregistration required at *LiteratiBookstore.com* for meeting URL. Free. 585-5567.

Eastside Weekly Euchre Tournament. Every Tues. Open to ages 18 & over. No partner needed. Cash prizes for 1st–3rd places. 7 p.m., *Banfield's Bar & Grill*, 3140 Packard. \$5. *Kari.Thurman@gmail.com*

★**"Bluegrass Jam Circle": Ann Arbor Senior Center**. All musicians invited to bring their acoustic instruments to play bluegrass-style music. Vocalists welcome, too. 7–9 p.m., see *a2bluGrass.com* for location. \$5.

★**"Virtual Pub Sing": Ann Arbor Morris**. Local Morris dancers lead an evening of rousing choruses, drinking songs, sea shanties, and English folk songs. No set

program; all participants are welcome to lead a song with a singable, reasonably easy-to-learn chorus. This is a participatory event. 7–10 p.m., email *bsagan@msu.edu* for meeting URL. Free.

★**Virtual Anything Goes Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment**. All musicians invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. 7:30–9:30 p.m., email *JimNovakMusic@gmail.com* for meeting URL. Free. 662-8283.

★**German Conversation**. Every Tues. All German speakers, native or non-native, invited for conversation with the long-running group German Speakers Round Table. Note: Face masks required. 8–10 p.m., *Grizzly Peak Brewing Company*, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453-2394.

15 WEDNESDAY

★**"Read Aloud Together Virtually": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**. Every Wed. All invited to join a reading of Mark Twain's classic 1883 memoir *Life on the Mississippi*. Led by local writer Sharon Quiroz. 1–2:30 p.m., bit.ly/readtwainaloud. Free. 998-9351.

★**"Norma Jeane Baker of Troy": Literati Bookstore Feminist Book Club**. All invited to an online discussion of celebrated Canadian poet (and former U-M classics professor) Anne Carson's new book-length poem, which revisits the stories of Marilyn Monroe and Helen of Troy. Today's discussion focuses on the whole book. 5:30 p.m., email *YoungEun@LiteratiBookstore.com* for meeting URL. Free. 585-5567.

★**Kerrytown Crafters**. Every Wed. All crocheters, knitters, spinners, weavers, felters, sewers, and other crafters invited to work on their projects. Questions welcome, help available. 7 p.m. or so, join *Facebook.com/groups/KTCrafters* for updates on virtual or in-person meeting location. Free. 926-8863.

★**"Social Distance 4 Social Justice: Journey Towards the Light": Northside**

Community Church. South African soprano **Goitsewang Lehobye** and Chicago-born baritone & pianist **Julian Goods**, both U-M music school grad students, perform a program of art songs, arias, spirituals, hymns, and more. Time TBA, see *Concert4aCause.org* for livestream URL. Free but donations accepted for *Isango Ensemble and Faith for Black Lives*. *kgoodson@umich.edu*

16 THURSDAY

Stand-Up Paddleboard Demo: Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All ages 13 & up invited to try out stand-up paddleboarding on Argo Pond. Led by Argo Park Livestaff. 5:30–7:30 p.m., meet at Argo Park Livery, 1055 Longshore. \$35 per person, preregistration required. 769-6241.

★**"Boogie with My Baby": Washtenaw Area Council for Children**. Local blues and boogie-woogie pianist **Mr. B** performs an hour-long virtual concert. Organizers encourage listeners to gather for a backyard picnic with select neighbors & friends to watch or listen to the show. 7 p.m., see *Facebook.com/WashtenawChildren* for livestream. Freewill offering. 434-4215.

★**Virtual Comhaltas**. Every Thurs. All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. 7 p.m., email *Contact@DetroitIrishMusic.org* for meeting URL. Free. *Facebook.com/DetroitIMA*

★**German Conversation**. Every Thurs. All German speakers, native or non-native, invited for conversation with long-running group "the Stammtisch." Note: Face masks required. 8–10 p.m., *Grizzly Peak Brewing Company*, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 678-1017.

★**Kiana June Weber Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series**. This Chelsea-born fiddler is a former member of Gaelic Storm (and is married to Martin Howley of star Irish group *We Banjo 3*, who makes a guest appearance tonight). She graduated from the U-M's increasingly eclectic music program and has developed a personal fusion of Celtic, rock, bluegrass, and jazz influences. 8 p.m., see *TheArk.org/Shows-Events/Calendar* for livestream. Free. 761-1451.

17 FRIDAY

★**"Clements Bookworm Online Event": U-M Clements Library**. Every Fri. Panelists and featured guests discuss history topics in this weekly webinar. Upcoming topics TBA at *clements.umich.edu/bookworm*. 10 a.m., preregistration required at *myumi.ch/gjgzR* for meeting URL. Free. 649-3370.

★**"Euchre Change a Life!"** Five-game online euchre tournament. Sign-up with a partner, or get paired with one by the organizers. Prizes. Proceeds benefit Haitian children. 6:30–9 p.m., preregistration required by July 15 at *facebook.com/*

★**"Virtual Peace Generator": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth**. All invited to join a silent meditation on world peace, forgiveness, cooperation, and joy. 7–9 p.m., see *InterfaithSpirit.org* for meet-

ing URL. Free, donations appreciated. 327-0270.

★**Stormy Chromer: The Blind Pig**. Popular local progressive jam-rock quartet. Opener TBA. 9 p.m.–1 a.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), *The Blind Pig*, 208 S. Ashley. Tickets \$10 in advance at *BlindPigMusic.com/Calendar* & at the door. 996-8555.

18 SATURDAY

★**Lillie Parkrun**. Every Sat. All invited to join a timed 5k run/walk. 8 a.m., *Lillie Park*, 4365 Platt Rd. Free; first-timers requested to preregister at *ParkRun.us/Lillie*. *ParkRun.us*.

★**"Ugly Dog Triathlon": Epic Races**. Triathlons of various lengths that involve biking on a gravel road. Also, duathlon, aquabike races, relay triathlons, and a paved-road "Pretty Dog" triathlon. Followed at 6 p.m. by awards and a complimentary drink for racers at *Ugly Dog Distillery* (218 S. Main, Chelsea). Medals for finishers, T-shirts, professional photos, and post-race snacks. 8:30 a.m. (registration begins at 7 a.m.), *Portage Lake*, 11500 Seymour Rd., Grass Lake. \$85–\$150 in advance at *EpicRaces.com*; price increase TBA after July 16. 585-7101.

★**"Apple Worldwide Developers Conference": MacTechnics**. Apple systems trainer Chris Anderson discusses happenings at the WWDC, held online in June. His talk includes information about upcoming versions of iOS, iPadOS, macOS, watchOS, and tvOS. Tentatively planned as a video conference. 11 a.m.–1 p.m., email *Contact@mactechnics.org* or see *MacTechnics.org* for meeting location. Free.

★**"Solarize": City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability**. City of Ann Arbor energy manager **Joshua MacDonald** and Ann Arbor Solarize program lead **Julie Roth** discuss over Zoom how residential solar fits in with larger sustainability goals and introduce Solarize, a bulk-buy program. Q&A. 3–4 p.m., preregister at *bit.ly/solarizeaa* for meeting URL. Free. *JulieKayeRoth111@gmail.com*

★**Dan Navarro Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series**. Veteran California songwriter who was silent for seven years after the death of duo partner Eric Lowen in 2012. Navarro, first cousin of Dave Navarro of *Jane's Addiction* and the *Red Hot Chili Peppers*, recently re-emerged with *Shed My Skin*, which *No Depression* called "a hauntingly beautiful album that evokes poignant regret, elusive identity, ambivalent passion, and palpable longing." 8 p.m., see *TheArk.org/Shows-Events/Calendar* for livestream. Free. 761-1451.

★**Lady Sunshine & the X Band: Local Brews & Local Blues**. Popular local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style blends elements of Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. The band's latest CD is *Big Sexee*. 8 p.m.–midnight, *Ann Arbor Marriott Ypsilanti Eagle Crest*, 1275 S. Huron, Ypsilanti. \$8 cover. 487-2000.

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Join us virtually with Emcee,
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of local storytelling, connection,
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Housing Bureau for Seniors
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Silver Club Memory Programs
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Presenting Sponsor



Registration, donation, and silent
auction information found at
victors.us/bigheartsforseniors



★ Denotes a free event

19 SUNDAY

★“Waterloo G & G Gravel Road Race”: **Epic Races.** 100k and 50k “gritting and grinding” bike races and a 10-mile non-competitive ride along a route that features pristine forests, rolling glacial terrain, and lakes. Fat bikes, single-speed bikes, and tandems welcome. After-party at the race site hosted by Short’s Brewing Co., for participants ages 21 & up. Awards. 10 a.m. (registration begins at 8 a.m.), 11500 Seymour Rd. (near Portage Lake in the Waterloo Recreation Area), Chelsea. \$55–\$120 in advance at EpicRaces.com. \$11 recreation passport required for vehicle entry (\$16 at the gate). 585–7101.

★**H.A.C. Ultimate.** Every Sun. All invited to a relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Note: Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. 11:15 a.m., Fuller Park, just west of the pool & parking lot (or occasionally across the street). Free. 846–9418, hac-UltimateList@GoogleGroups.com

★“Live @ The 415!”: **Kerrytown Concert House.** Every Sun. Livestream performance of jazz, cabaret, or classical music by a KCH favorite TBA. Previous performers include Ann Arbor jazz bassist Paul Keller, U-M music professor and jazz composer-pianist Ellen Rowe, and local boogie-woogie & blues pianist Mark “Mr. B” Braun. 4:15 p.m., KerrytownConcertHouse.com/Live-At-The-415. Free, donations accepted. KerrytownConcertHouse.com

★**Ann Arbor Morris.** All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance thought to be descended from the 15th-century Spanish *moresca*. Wear athletic shoes. 6–8 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse. Free. To confirm, email a2morris@umich.edu or check MeetUp.com. 717–1569.

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20 MONDAY

★**Rachael Kilgour Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** Formerly one-half of the duo Sound an Echo, this Minnesota songwriter and fiddler turned to songwriting after her marriage ended in divorce. She won the 2017 Kerrville New Folk Contest and has performed at both Lincoln Center in New York and the Kennedy Center in Washington. 8 p.m., see TheArk.org/Shows-Events/Calendar for livestream. Free. 761–1451.

21 TUESDAY

★“Guided River Trip”: **Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** Argo Park Livery staffer leads kayakers down the 3.7 mile river

stretch from Argo to Gallup park. 5:30–7:30 p.m., meet at Argo Park Livery, 1055 Longshore. \$21 per 1-person kayak; \$27 per 2-person kayak. 769–6241.

★“Virtual Sufi Chanting, Movement, and Meditations”: **Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** Every Tues. Local Imam Kamau Ayubbi leads a program of chanting and meditation based on traditions of Sufi masters. 6:30 p.m., see InterfaithSpirit.org for meeting URL. Free, but donations appreciated. 327–0270.

★**Virtual Play Reading Club: The Brass Tacks Ensemble.** All invited to join members of this local ensemble to read a part in a play TBA. Listeners welcome. 6:30 p.m., see Facebook.com/TheBrassTacksEnsemble for meeting URL. Free. BTEpublicity.com

★**Eastside Weekly Euchre Tournament.** Every Tues. Open to ages 18 & over. No partner needed. Cash prizes for 1st–3rd places. 7 p.m., Banfield’s Bar & Grill, 3140 Packard. \$5. Kari.Thurman@gmail.com

★**German Conversation.** Every Tues. All German speakers, native or non-native, invited for conversation with the long-running group German Speakers Round Table. Note: Face masks required. 8–10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453–2394.

22 WEDNESDAY

★“Read Aloud Together Virtually”: **U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.** Every Wed. All invited to join a reading of Mark Twain’s classic 1883 memoir *Life on the Mississippi*. Led by local writer Sharon Quiroz. 1–2:30 p.m., bit.ly/readtwainloud. Free. 998–9351.

★“Basic Juniper Care”: **Ann Arbor Bonsai Society.** Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum collection specialist Carmen Leskoviansky discusses caring for juniper bonsai trees and demonstrates commonly used techniques. 6:30 p.m., email aaBonsaiSociety@gmail.com for meeting URL. Free.

★**Kerrytown Crafters.** Every Wed. All crocheters, knitters, spinners, weavers, felters, sewers, and other crafters invited to work on their projects. Questions welcome, help available. 7 p.m. or so, join Facebook.com/groups/KTCrafters for updates on virtual or in-person meeting location. Free. 926–8863.

★“An Evening of Poetry and Written Word over Zoom”: **Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Reading by Wayne County Community College literature professor Esperanza Cintrón, a Detroit native whose most recent work, *Shades: Detroit Love Stories*, is a collection of interconnected stories examining the choices individuals make in order to cope in a changing urban landscape. Followed by a poetry and short fiction open mic. 7–8:45 p.m., email cwPoetryCircle@gmail.com for meeting URL. Free.

★**The Oshima Brothers Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** This rising Maine sibling duo fuses pop-folk songwriting from one brother with production, engineering, filmmaking, and multi-instrumentalism from the other. Their 2 albums and many videos were

made mostly in their home studio in rural Maine. 8 p.m., see TheArk.org/Shows-Events/Calendar for livestream. Free. 761-1451.

23 THURSDAY

★**"River Women": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** July 23, 30, & Aug. 6. Argo Park Livery staffer leads women age 13 & up in different river activities. July 23: Learn basic kayak strokes and maneuvers in still water. July 30: Learn to stand-up paddleboard. Aug. 6: Kayak down the Argo Cascades and Huron River. 5:30-7:30 p.m., meet at Argo Park Livery, 1055 Longshore. \$75 per person for 3 sessions, preregistration required. 769-6241.

★**Virtual Comhaltas.** Every Thurs. All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. 7 p.m., email Contact@DetroitIrishMusic.org for meeting URL. Free. [Facebook.com/DetroitIMA](https://www.facebook.com/DetroitIMA)

★**German Conversation.** Every Thurs. All German speakers, native or non-native, invited for conversation with long-running group "the Stammtisch." Note: Face masks required. 8-10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 678-1017.

24 FRIDAY

★**"Clements Bookworm Online Event": U-M Clements Library.** Every Fri. Panelists and featured guests discuss history topics in this weekly webinar. Upcoming topics TBA at clements.umich.edu/bookworm. 10 a.m., preregistration required at myumi.ch/gjgzR for meeting URL. Free. 649-3370.

★**"Girl, Woman, Other": At Home with Literati Book Club.** All invited to an online discussion of British novelist Bernardine Evaristo's 2019 book, which follows the lives of 12 characters (mostly black women) as they negotiate the world. Today's discussion focuses on the whole book. 5:30 p.m., email YoungEun@LiteratiBookstore.com for meeting URL. Free. 585-5567.

★**Bill Kirchen Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** Ann Arbor native (and former Commander Cody guitarist) Kirchen plays a versatile mix of hard-core honky-tonk, rockabilly, acoustic swing, and country-politain balladry. The *Austin American-Statesman* recently praised his "no-nonsense diesel guitar attack, powered by great booming, bottom-heavy licks still covered with axle grease." 8 p.m., see TheArk.org/Shows-Events/Calendar for livestream. Free. 761-1451.

25 SATURDAY

★**"Pleasant Lake Ride": Jolly Pumpkin.** 50k, 100k, or 100-mile gravel/mixed terrain bike ride on open roads. All welcome; this is not a race. Beverages & food available for purchase post-ride, plus a raffle of a Garmin Edge GPS. 7:11 a.m., Jolly Pumpkin, 2319 Bishop Circle East, Dexter. Free, preregistration required by 10 a.m. on July 10 at BikeReg.com/Pleasant-Lake-Ride.

★**Lillie Parkrun.** Every Sat. All invited to join a timed 5k run/walk. 8 a.m., Lillie Park, 4365 Platt Rd. Free; first-timers requested to preregister at ParkRun.us/Lillie. ParkRun.us.

26 SUNDAY

★**H.A.C. Ultimate.** Every Sun. All invited to a relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Note: Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. 11:15 a.m., Fuller Park, just west of the pool & parking lot (or occasionally across the street). Free. 846-9418, hac-UltimateList@GoogleGroups.com

★**LezRead Book Club.** All queer women invited to discuss a book TBA. 4-6 p.m., physical or virtual location TBA at a2LezRead.tumblr.com. Free.

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★**Royal Wood Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** Acclaimed Canadian pop singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist known for his finely crafted songs. He has a recent album, *Ever After the Farewell*. 7:30 p.m., see TheArk.org/Shows-Events/Calendar for livestream. Free. 761-1451.

27 MONDAY

★**Virtual Scandinavian Music Jam.** Bruce Sagan and Brad Battey lead an acoustic jam session devoted to traditional music from Sweden and Norway. All instruments welcome, no experience playing Scandinavian music necessary. 7:30-9:30 p.m., email bsagan@msu.edu for meeting URL. Free. (908) 721-2599.

28 TUESDAY

★**"Virtual Meditation Drop-In": U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** Every Tues. Local insight mindful meditation instructor Bilha Birman Rivlin leads an informal session for all ages & experience levels. 10 a.m., preregister at bit.ly/

kids calendar

Every Sun. (2 p.m.): **"Virtual Kerry Tales with Mother Goose."** 5-10 minute long program of rhymes, riddles, & stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. See [Facebook.com/Kerrytown](https://www.facebook.com/Kerrytown) for livestream URL. Free.

July 11 (3 p.m.) & 25 (10:30 a.m.): **"Virtual Open Stage": Oz's Music Environment.** All kids invited to join a Zoom gathering to sing songs, make music, tell jokes, and more. Free, preregister at bit.ly/kidsopenstage for meeting URL. 662-8283.

virtualmeditation2 or call 998-9353 for meeting URL. Free.

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★**Skazat! Poetry Series Remote Edition.** Reading by Jon Sands, a Brooklyn-based poet & 2018 National Poetry Series winner. His 2019 collection, *It's Not Magic*, draws on voices from Sands' private world and the public sphere to create an urgent portrait of youth that is almost rebellious in its sheer, persistent joy. Preceded by an open mic. 7-8:30 p.m., preregister at [Facebook.com/Skazat](https://www.facebook.com/Skazat) for meeting URL. Free. 994-6663.

★**"Bluegrass Jam Circle": Ann Arbor Senior Center.** July 14 & 28. All musicians invited to bring their acoustic instruments to play bluegrass-style music. Vocalists welcome, too. 7-9 p.m., see a2bluGrass.com for location. \$5.

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★**Marielle Kraft Livestream: The Ark Family Room Series.** Delaware-based indie pop singer-songwriter, a former schoolteacher who has opened for Jon McLaughlin, Ava Max, and Betty Who. She gave a TEDx talk about the importance of honesty in the songwriting process. 8 p.m., see TheArk.org/Shows-Events/Calendar for livestream. Free. 761-1451.

29 WEDNESDAY

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★**"River Women": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** July 23, 30, & Aug. 6. Argo Park Livery staffer leads women age 13 & up in different river activities. Today: Learn to stand-up paddleboard. 5:30-7:30 p.m., meet at Argo Park Livery, 1055 Longshore. \$75 per person for 3 sessions, preregistration required. 769-6241.

★**Virtual Comhaltas.** Every Thurs. All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. 7 p.m., email Contact@DetroitIrishMusic.org for meeting URL. Free. [Facebook.com/DetroitIMA](https://www.facebook.com/DetroitIMA)

★**German Conversation.** Every Thurs. All German speakers, native or non-native, invited for conversation with the long-running group "the Stammtisch." Note: Face masks required. 8-10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 678-1017.

31 FRIDAY

★**"Clements Bookworm Online Event": U-M Clements Library.** Every Fri. Panelists and featured guests discuss history topics in this weekly webinar. Upcoming topics TBA at clements.umich.edu/bookworm. 10 a.m., preregistration required at myumi.ch/gjgzR for meeting URL. Free. 649-3370.

★**Anne Heaton: The Ark Family Room Series.** Heaton, a local transplant from NYC, is a pop-folk singer-songwriter and pianist who cites Peter Gabriel, Tori Amos, and the Indigo Girls as her main influences. The *Washington Post* has called her songs by turns "tender, barbed, and spiritual." She has a new album, *To the Light*, her 7th. 8 p.m., see TheArk.org/Shows-Events/Calendar for livestream. Free. 761-1451.

★**"Night Paddle": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** All invited to paddle around Gallup Pond under the moon to observe birds and other animals as they prepare for their nocturnal lives. Bring a flashlight, if you wish. Canoes, kayaks, and equipment provided. 8:30-10:30 p.m., meet at Gallup Park Canoe Livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. \$15 per 1-person kayak; \$20 per 2-person kayak/canoe. 769-6240.

Classifieds

Lessons & Workshops

The Classifieds deadline for the August issue is July 10.

Get happy piano lessons for your child! Decades of training, experience, and performance. Two degrees in Music Education. For a free consult, call (734) 646-2740.

For Sale

The Classifieds deadline for the August issue is July 10.

Turn your kids into cooks with Kathleen Baxter's child-tested cookbook, **Come & Get It** (ages 4-12). Practical, tasty recipes for smoothies, granola, pancakes, sandwiches, salads, breads, pies, pizza, tacos, & more. Get it from Baxter House B&B, 719 N. Fourth Ave. Call ahead: (734) 974-5021. \$13 pickup. Add \$4 for shipping.

Miscellaneous

The Classifieds deadline for the August issue is July 10.

I SPY CONTEST

Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 59? If you can, you could win a \$25 check made out to any business advertising in this issue. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, July 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, AA 48103. Fax: 769-3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (put I Spy in the subject line).

FAKE AD CONTEST

Can you find the fake ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue! One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, July 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: backpage@aaobserver.com or write to: 2390 Winewood, AA 48103.

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BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS - Spectacular, custom-built 6-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath two-story on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. This home has it all. Gorgeous 1.2-acre lot with extensive landscaping, large patio, and pond. The interior is stunning including custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, family room with fireplace, screen porch, sunroom, luxury master suite with sitting room, and finished basement. \$899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



CENTENNIAL PARK - This 4-bedroom, 4-bath, two 1/2-bath former builder's model home is loaded with custom features in one of Saline school's most popular neighborhoods. This home rests on one of the largest lots in the neighborhood with extensive landscaping, paver patio, and huge backyard. The interior highlights include two-story family room, cherry kitchen, sunroom, private den, luxury first floor master suite, bonus room, and finished basement. \$759,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - STONEBRIDGE - Stunning 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath former Showcase of Homes entry on a quiet cul-de-sac lot. The setting of this home is wonderful with great landscaping, large deck, and paver patio. The interior has been completely remodeled and is gorgeous. Highlights include hardwood floors throughout the home, cherry kitchen with granite counters, open concept family room with fireplace, paneled den, luxury master suite with new bath, great kids' bedrooms, and finished basement. \$649,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



YORK MEADOWS - Incredible 6-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath colonial on a spacious 1.4-acre lot backing to common area. You will love this setting with panoramic pond views, extensive landscaping, large deck, and patio with fire pit. The interior is gorgeous. Highlights include two-story family room with fireplace, large cherry kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, luxury master suite with great bath and huge closet, and finished basement with bar, two rec spaces, bedroom, and bath. \$649,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



STONEBRIDGE - Stunning, 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath former Showcase of Homes entry on a quiet cul-de-sac lot. The setting of this home is wonderful with great landscaping, large deck, and paver patio. The interior has been completely remodeled and is gorgeous. Highlights include hardwood floors throughout the home, cherry kitchen with granite counters, open concept family room with fireplace, paneled den, luxury master suite with new bath, great kids' bedrooms, and finished basement. \$649,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ARBORETUM - Very sharp 4-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath home on one of the best lots in this very popular neighborhood walking distance to downtown Saline. You will love the setting of this home with a spacious backyard, large deck, and great landscaping. The interior sparkles with many recent updates. Features include two-story great room with fireplace, open concept kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, luxury first floor master suite, den, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths on the 2nd level, and finished walkout basement. \$529,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - DEXTER - This 3-bedroom, 2-bath cape rests on an extremely private 1.8-acre lot just minutes from downtown Dexter. You will love this setting with mature trees, extensive landscaping, huge backyard, deck, and patio. The interior of this home is in move-in condition. Features include great room with vaulted ceiling and full height stone fireplace, open kitchen with stainless steel appliances, first floor master suite, 2nd level with loft, 2 bedrooms, a bath, and a finished walkout basement. \$399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - NORTH LAKE - Incredible opportunity to own a home on all-sports North Lake at this very nice 3-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath ranch with canal access and partial lake view. This home rests on a gorgeous one-acre lot. You will love the elbow room and fantastic views. The interior features a large living room, nice kitchen, flex-use family room, master suite, and good-sized additional bedrooms. \$389,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - ABBOT ELEMENTARY - Sharp 4-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath colonial backing to Abbot Elementary. This location is great, walking distance to Plum Market and Vets Park. The setting includes a fenced backyard, mature trees, and patio. The interior includes hardwood floors in most rooms, remodeled kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, family room with fireplace, spacious living room, nice master suite, and good sized kids' bedrooms. \$359,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP - Very sharp 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath Colonial in Partridge Creek North. This home rests on a premium cul-de-sac lot and features great landscaping, huge backyard, and a large brick paver patio. The interior sparkles with fresh paint and new carpet. Highlights include two-story foyer, large kitchen with eating space, wonderful family room fireplace, nice formal living room and dining room, great master suite with attached bath and walk-in closet, and nice sized kids' bedrooms. \$324,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - SALINE - Perfect 3-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath condo in Burwyck Park just minutes to downtown Saline. This unit has been completely updated, you will love it. Features include all-hardwood floor on the main level, kitchen with painted white maple cabinets, quartz counter tops, and stainless steel appliances, great room with fireplace, luxury master suite, 2 additional great sized bedrooms, and finished basement with rec room and full bath. \$314,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - OAK MEADOWS - Very nice 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath Townhouse-style condo in one of Ann Arbor's most desired complexes. You will love the convenience of this unit walking distance to shopping and restaurants and minutes to I-94 and UM campus. This unit is ready for you designer touch and features a living room with fireplace, spacious kitchen, master suite with vaulted ceiling, large bath, and walk-in closet, 2 additional bedrooms, and a finished basement with rec room. \$274,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ANN ARBOR HILLS - This 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath custom-built estate is one of the finest homes in Ann Arbor. The 2-acre setting is breathtaking. The grounds include extensive landscaping, incredible outdoor living patios, and the finest pool you will see. The home was built to the highest standard of design, materials, and craftsmanship. Highlights include gourmet kitchen with professional grade appliances, dramatic living spaces, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. Incredible! \$1,795,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



WOODLANDS OF GEDDES GLEN - Incredible 5-bedroom, 6 1/2-bath custom-built home overlooking Radrick Farms Golf Course. This home was built to the highest standards. The setting is special with great outdoor living spaces. Interior highlights include gourmet kitchen with Wolf/Sub-Zero appliances, two-story great room, luxury master bedroom suite with sitting area, two walk-in closets, spa-like baths, and finished walkout basement! \$1,795,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



SALINE ESTATES - Custom-built 5-bedroom, 5 1/2-bath all-brick and stone home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot with panoramic views of common area and pond. This home was constructed to the highest standards seen in our area. Highlights include one of the nicest residential pools you will find, custom kitchen with granite and Viking/SubZero appliances, open concept family room, Solarium, luxury master suite with brand new bath, and finished walkout basement with 2nd kitchen, large rec room, and additional flex-use rooms. \$1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ANN ARBOR HILLS - This classic 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath colonial rests on a gorgeous hilltop lot in a prime section of Ann Arbor Hills. You will love this setting with mature trees, large backyard, and patio. The interior is gorgeous! Highlights include all-hardwood floors, original trim, updated kitchen with painted maple cabinets and granite counters, living room with fireplace, sunroom, den, master suite with remodeled master bath, 2nd bedroom suite, and finished basement. Angell Elementary. \$1,150,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



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3969 Penberton Dr, N.E. Ann Arbor

Mid-Century Modern 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath with 4,012 livable sq. ft. including partially finished lower level with fireplace, bed, bath. Deck, 1/2 acre wooded yard. \$600,000. Scott Blomquist 734-502-0857. #3273927



2110 Shadford Rd, Burns Park

Built in 1937, classic colonial with 2,838 sq. ft., 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3-car garage, 0.35 acre fenced yard. 2 master suites and spacious kitchen area. Beautiful in-ground pool! \$674,500. Jean Wedemeyer 734-604-2523. #3271042



9811 Leach Ln, Baseline Lake

A-frame, 4 bedroom, 2 bath home with beautiful sunset views of Base Line Lake. 60 ft. of shoreline! Built in 1995. Open concept layout, wrap around deck, 2.5-car garage. \$775,000. Julie Svinicki 734-358-7700. #3269418



3991 Calgary Ct, The Pines of Lake Forest

Stately brick home with 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths on private cul-de-sac. Impeccably maintained. Fresh paint. Huge walkout lower level with lots of daylight. Bonus room. 3-car garage. \$869,900. Lyla Icaza 734-678-3863. #3271286



2600 Geddes Ave, Geddes/Arb Area

Historic home moved to this site in the early 1900s. Totally updated and renovated. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Unique design allows for two living spaces with private entrance. \$950,000. Carolyn Lepard 734-417-2900. #3271297



4141 Gleaner Hall Rd, Ann Arbor

3,100 sq. ft. brick colonial with 4 bedrooms, open floor plan, finished walkout lower level, bonus room over garage. Located on 2-plus acres yet so close to Ann Arbor. Pat Durston 734-260-9247. #3271273



2307 Quaker Ridge Dr, Saline

Sleek Stonebridge Highpointe condo, nearly brand new with every possible upgrade. Pristine with vast open plan, chef's kitchen. 4-season room, 2.5-car garage and more! \$689,900. Maryann Ryan 734-645-5703. #3273925



8133 Trail Ridge, Dexter

Custom home on private wooded site, protected by wetlands. Amazing details, 1st floor master, finished walkout lower level includes: kitchen, bedroom, bath and laundry. \$789,900. Janet McAllister 734-231-3508. #3271399



208 W William St, Downtown Ann Arbor

Fabulous, meticulously maintained end unit townhome condominium backing to proposed Ann Arbor greenbelt park. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2-car garage, many updates. One block from Main St. \$875,000. Ed Ridha 734-645-3110. #3273332



5520 Stonevalley Dr, Ann Arbor

1.5-story home on 3.8 park-like acres with mature trees and panoramic views. 4,041 sq. ft. with 2,000 sq. ft. in the finished walkout lower level. Gourmet kitchen. \$1,099,000. Rick Taylor 734-223-5656. #3271017



619 Wesley Ave, West Side Ann Arbor

Adorable Cape Cod with extreme makeover from top to bottom! Perfect blend of historic charm meets trendy convenience. Great location, must see! \$649,900. Carmen Knick 734-417-7307. #3273844



3477 Wagner Woods Ct, Ann Arbor

Stunning contemporary atop a hill. Flowing spaces, 2-story foyer, great room with vaulted ceiling, 3-season porch, chef's kitchen. Finished lower level, 3-car garage. \$745,000. Tracey Roy 734-417-5827. #3273869



10243 Warner Rd, Saline

Beautiful country 10 acre estate! 5 bedrooms, 4 full, 1 half bath, walkout lower level with all the amenities, wrap around porch and decks. Many updates. Minutes to downtown Saline. \$815,000. Deb Helber 734-649-7437. #3273963



4231 Red Mesa Ct, Preserve of Dexter

Beautiful, custom walkout ranch home, sitting atop a hill with picturesque views of Glacier Lake. No detail overlooked with too many upgrades to list! 4 bedrooms, 4 baths and well over 4,000 sq. ft. \$889,000. Jessica Singer 734-780-5526. #3273752



3905 Preserve Dr, Preserve of Dexter

This custom, showcase home set amidst a spectacular array of trees and award-winning landscaping will exceed expectations for quality, design, detail and whimsy! Private, up north feel. \$1,295,000. Michal Porath 734-395-0650. #3273839



5004 Lohr, Ann Arbor

Stunning 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with luxury master suite, 3-car garage, in-ground pool. 0.82 acre scenic, private lot in popular Stonebridge Estates. Great location. Township taxes. \$649,900. Snow Liao 734-678-4848. #3271675



403 Pineway Dr, Trailwoods

Move-in ready home has been completely upgraded! Located on premium lot with lovely nature views. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, open floor plan, added sunroom extension and Trex deck. \$749,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444. #3273474



3317 E Dobson Pl, King Elementary

Striking contemporary home on beautiful 0.7 acre wooded lot, built by Durbin builders. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, updated kitchen with island. New granite in baths. Nice rear deck. \$817,500. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444. #3271789



1614 Cambridge Rd, Ann Arbor

Calling all townies: upbeat and sprightly townhome in Burns Park! Built in 2014 with designer finishes, open plan, chef's kitchen, finished lower level, 2-car garage. Walk to downtown! \$895,000. Nancy Bishop 734-761-3040. #3273528



3100 Geddes Ave, Ann Arbor

One of Ann Arbor's finest and most treasured properties. Stunning stone cottage built in 1926 on park-like setting. Stem to stem renovation while retaining original charm. 820 sq. ft. guest house. \$1,499,000. Nate Foerg 734-834-1981. #3271342



4261 Loon Ln, West Ann Arbor

To be built! A.I.R. Housing, Phase I, 26 lots. Craftsman design ranch style homes with emphasis on high-end and amenity-focused. Approximately 2,100 sq. ft., gourmet kitchens, covered front porch. \$650,000. Brynn Stelter 734-277-2531. #3270157



5050 Pleasant Lake, Saline Schools

Lovingly cared for 6 bedroom, 4 full, 1 half bath with 4,000-plus sq. ft. Cherry wood floors, granite kitchen, deck, finished lower level with kitchen, fireplace, family room. \$774,900. Nancy Arnold 734-260-3505. #3270862



9755 Harbor Trail Dr, Webster Twp.

5 bedroom, 3.5 bath home with 4,395 livable sq. ft. including walkout lower level with wet bar, theater room, bed and full bath. 1st floor master, in-ground pool. \$839,000. Brent Flewelling 734-646-4263. #3271423



3629 Northbrooke Dr, Arbor Hills

On an exceptional 1.34 acre site in Arbor Hills, backing to common area. Beautifully appointed inside and out, this stately home has been perfectly updated throughout. \$899,000. Nancy Bishop 734-761-3040. #3271397



1824 Norway Rd, Ann Arbor

Iconic, stucco home in the heart of Ives Woods. Built in 1915 and updated in 2011 with all the modern amenities. 7 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, extensive patio, in-ground heated pool. \$1,900,000. Lisa Stelter 734-645-7909. #3274018

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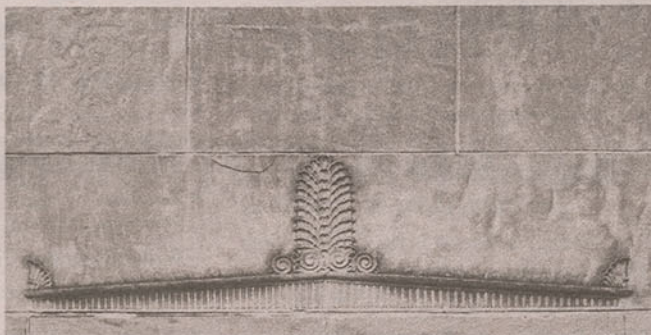
i spy

by Sally Bjork

I Spy “part of the Michigan Theater marquee,” writes Dan Romanchik. “I’d really love to go see a movie there right about now <SIGH>.” “Pandemic pleasures,” says Gwynne Fisher, who entered for the first time after “reading the Observer for decades.” Puzzled by the clue, she added, “I don’t know what *rear view* refers to since the sign is in the front.”

“The picture [shows] the *rear view* of the turrets,” says Keith McConnelly. It’s “not an angle I’ve viewed before,” writes Melodie Marske, “maybe from a parking structure?” “It seems to me that [the photographer] would have had to be on the roof of the theater,” says Cathy Chow. It “was taken from pretty high up,” writes Gabe DellaVecchia, who guessed the vantage point might be a back window at Sava’s.

While not actually taken from a window, the clue does allude



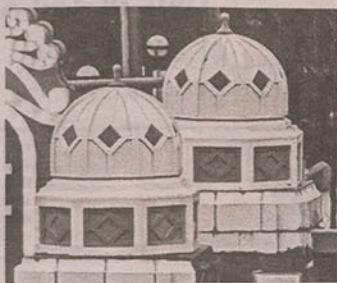
Located one block from a spicy Pit.

to the film *Rear Window*. The oblique rear view of the theater domes and marquee was shot from the 7th floor of U-M’s Thayer St. parking structure.

“Thank you for pointing out things I don’t usually notice!” says Sara Kitzsteiner, who enjoyed the “unusual view.” “I love the Michigan Theater,” writes Monet Tiedemann, adding that she “can’t wait to see a film there once the pandemic is over!” Till then, check out the theater’s virtual film lineup at michtheater.org.

We received thirty-two correct entries in June. Our random drawing winner is Cathy Chow who will enjoy a \$25 gift certificate at, you guessed it, the Michigan Theater!

To enter this month’s contest, use the image and clue above and send your answer to the address below.



fake ad

by Jay Forstner

We received 170 entries correctly identifying last month’s Fake Ad for Panmedic, with its improbable list of pandemic-related products for sale. The ad appeared on page 46 of the June issue.

“When the history books get written about life in America during the pandemic,” wrote Janine Shahinian, “I hope this Fake Ad appears in the chapter on local efforts to boost morale and keep our spirits up.”

John Rennels added, “One of the side effects of hydroxychloroquine is you huff a lot which helps in locating this month’s fake ad. Fortunately there are some great inexpensive bathroom remodeling de-

signs out there to accommodate 12 giant rolls of bathroom tissue at a time.”

“The prices were unreasonable, probably inflated by the pandemic,” wrote Ginny Weingate. “One ounce of hand wetter was \$4.99. Sounds like it would wet your hands but not sanitize them.

So, is this one ounce of water? The funniest part was: Each roll of the Super Mega Jumbo bathroom paper would equal 12 regular rolls and would require a special dispenser. Imagine the size of that dispenser! Thanks for the humor to alleviate our pandemic

woes.”

Anne Heise was chosen as our winner. She’s taking her gift certificate to Zingerman’s.

- U.S. Government Issued Bathroom Tissue \$19.99 for 12 Super Mega Jumbo rolls (equals 144 regular rolls, requires special dispenser)
- Whole wheat flour \$49.99 for 40 pound bag
- Hydroxychloroquine \$9.99 for 1M tablets
- A-Quell Hand Wetter \$4.99 for 1 oz. bottle

PANMEDIC SURPLUS MEDICAL SUPPLIES
WWW.PANMEDIC.COM
As seen in Forbes, HuffPost and Newsweek

To enter this month’s contests, send email to backpage@aaobserver.com. Mail: 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. All correct entries received by noon on July 10th will be eligible for our random drawings. Winners receive \$25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

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THANKS!

We extend a sincere thank you to our new Observer friends!

We appreciate your financial support.

Thanks also to readers who responded to our request for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our June drawing!

The following readers won a **\$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

June winners:
Molly Z. and Chris S.

If you would like to be entered in the July drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue, check out the information on page 50, and submit your Observer Friend or Free Subscription confirmation by July 10.

Thanks!
Observer Staff

It's Here!

The Observer launched
a weekly
e-newsletter:



Featuring top stories, community updates and
events delivered to your inbox every Thursday.

In The News

Marketplace

Art, Photographs, Videos

Personal stories



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Events at a Glance

Daily Events listings begin on p. 41. Films: p. 45. Galleries: p. 48. Kids: p. 49.

► Reviewed in this issue. See p. 41.

* In-person event

Concert Music

classical, religious, cabaret

- Soprano Goitseman Lehobye and baritone & pianist Julian Goods livestream, July 15

Vernacular Music

pop, rock, jazz, & traditional

- Live (online) @ The 415 (KCH), every Sun.
- Singer-songwriter Dick Siegel livestream (rock), July 2
- Duo Freddy & Francine livestream (Americana-soul), July 6
- Frontier Ruckus livestream (Americana-flavored folk-rock), July 10
- Duo Annie & Rod Capps livestream (folk-rock), July 12
- *Stormy Chromer (jam-rock), July 17
- *Lady Sunshine & the X Band, (gospel-flavored blues), July 18
- The Oshima Brothers livestream (experimental pop-folk), July 22
- Singer-songwriter Royal Wood livestream (pop), July 26
- Singer-songwriter Anne Heaton livestream (pop-folk), July 31

Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- Storyteller Antonio Rocha livestream, July 11

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- 4th of July BBQ to-go, July 4
- Ypsilanti 4th of July virtual parade, July 4
- Virtual Nevertheless Film Festival, July 9–12
- *Record & CD collector's show, July 12

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Writer and California Congressman Eric Swalwell, along with Michigan congresswoman Debbie Dingell livestream, July 10
- Novelist Legna Rodríguez Iglesias livestream, July 14
- Writer Esperanza Cintrón livestream, July 22
- Poet Jon Sands livestream, July 28

Family & Kids' Stuff

See our Kids Calendar, p. 49 for most kids events.

- *Night Paddle, July 10 & 31
- Virtual kids open stage, July 11
- *Guided river trip, July 21

Miscellaneous

- Virtual guided beer and snack tasting, July 2
- Virtual songwriters open mic, July 7
- Virtual euchre tournament, July 17
- *Gravel road triathlon, July 18
- *Pleasant Lake bike ride, July 25

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Virtual pub sing, July 14

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JULY EVENTS

The
(curious
case of the)
**Watson
Intelligence**

By Madeleine George
Directed by Sara Lipinski Chambers

The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence
Eastern Michigan University Blackbox Theatre // 7.9.20 – 7.26.20

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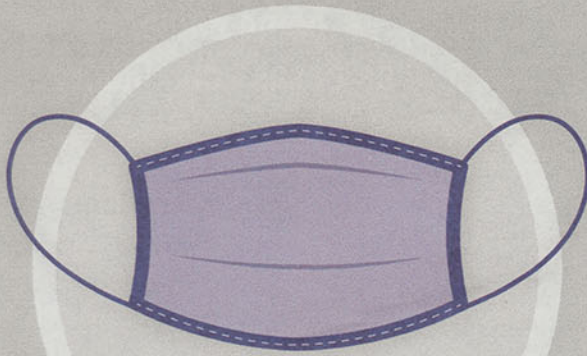
734-834-8594 • Evenings and weekends

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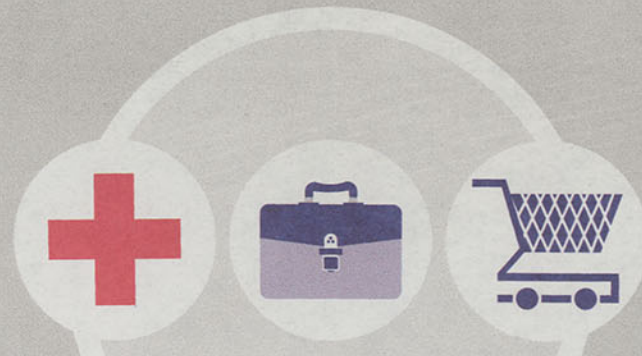
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TheRide is prioritizing key corridors, frequency and safe, essential travel.

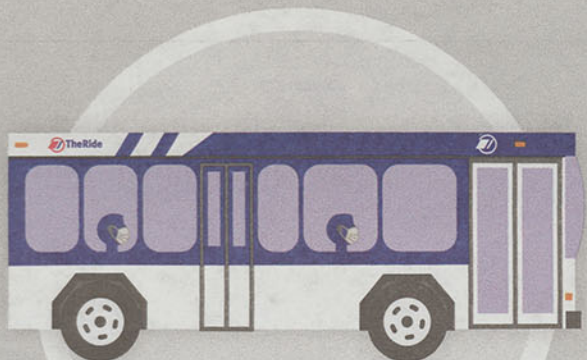
Safety measures include:



Masks required



Essential travel only



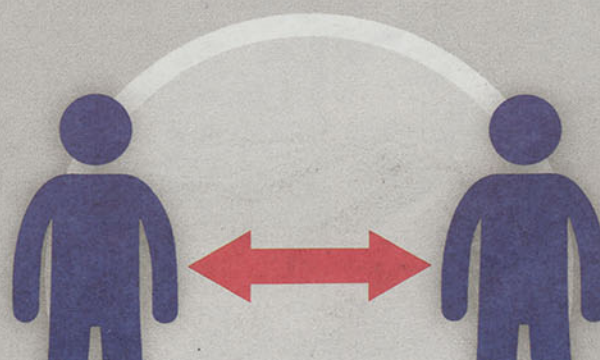
Lower max capacity



Avoid rush-hour trips



Approach driver in emergencies only



Practice social distancing

how to speak
"house" fluently.

如何流利的说“房子”

cómo hablar
"de casas" con fluidez.

NANCY KNOWS

“집”을 유창하게
말하는 법

wie man
"Immobilie"
fließend spricht.

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